

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

Basham Press Release

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Senator Basham Proposes Legislation to Crack Down on Illegal Activity at Adult Entertainment Establishments

Local teen's death demonstrates need for stricter employment practices, monitoring

LANSING, Mich.—Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) introduced legislation today to address the community's concerns with the hiring process of adult entertainment establishments. A local family from Wyandotte alerted Basham to this problem as they prepared to file a lawsuit against an establishment for hiring their underage granddaughter, high school student Stephanie Brown.

“Employing underage individuals to work in these harmful environments is not only illegal, it's child endangerment,” said Basham. “By working together with the Brown family and the Lincoln Park Ministerial Association, I hope to erase any oversights and prevent these tragic incidents from occurring in the future.”

Senate Bill 1612 would allow local municipalities to require employees of adult establishments to obtain a local work permit to ensure that they are of legal age to be employed there. The second bill, SB 1613, creates an adult entertainment facility tax of \$3 per customer that would be deposited into the state domestic violence prevention and treatment fund.

“My family and I are devastated over our loss caused by these illegal, manipulative acts,” said Richard Sands, grandfather of Brown. “Stephanie had a bright future ahead of her and it's infuriating that her life was cut short because of club owners who prey on our children. We're grateful to Senator Basham for stepping up and addressing this serious issue.”

In March 2007, Atlantis, a strip club in Lincoln Park, Michigan, employed Stephanie Brown although she was only 17 years old and did not carry an adult cabaret employee license, which is required by the Lincoln Park Code of Ordinances. On her second night working at Atlantis, who has a reputation for hiring minors and encouraging underage drinking, drug use, and prostitution, Brown died when club patrons provided her with a lethal dose of cocaine. Before this incident, Brown had no criminal record or history of using drugs and planned to attend college. Brown's family filed a lawsuit in Wayne County Circuit Court against Atlantis today citing negligence and a sexually hostile work environment. For more information about the lawsuit, contact attorney Jennifer Salvatore at (734) 663-7550 or jsalvatore@nachtlaw.com.

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