

February 10, 2009

The Joint Study Committee that focused on the issue of the commercial sexual exploitation of children has completed its report and issued their recommendations. These recommendations are the result of months of study on the issue, and are packaged as a legislative agenda. As these bills move through the legislative process it is helpful for those who are trying to achieve the passage of these bills to know the community organizations that are in support of these measures. If you are in support of any – or all – of these bills please fill in the blank with your organization’s name, and check the box that is appropriate for that particular bill. If you are in support of all of the bills, please check all three boxes. Then, please sign your name, your title, and the date below.

I agree to my organization’s name, _____, being used publicly in support of the following bills:

Senate Bill 69: Amends the law so mandatory reporters of child abuse also report any child who they suspect is being prostituted by someone other than a “parent or caretaker”.

Senate Bill 74: Raises the minimum legal age for exotic dancers from 18 to 21 statewide.

Senate Bill 91: Holds the adult entertainment industry accountable for the secondary effects of their business by enacting an adult entertainment surcharge specifically to fund services for minors who have been commercially sexually exploited.

(Signature)

(Title)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Form can be faxed to Kaffie McCullough at 404-224-1082 or emailed to kaffie.mccullough@fultoncountyga.gov



It's time to hold the adult entertainment industry accountable for the secondary effects their profiteering has on the community.

Hidden in Plain View, a 2005 report by the Atlanta Women's Agenda found a spatial relationship between adult strip clubs and the prostitution of children.

An ongoing tracking study commissioned by *A Future. Not A Past.* has observed high rates of child sex for sale occurring around erotic dance clubs, especially where motels or hotels are adjacent to adult entertainment venues.

Georgia has a substantial interest in protecting and rehabilitating minors who have experienced Commercial Sexual Exploitation:

- Health consequences connected with sexual trafficking and prostitution of children are well documented and long-lasting
- Trafficked individuals are often subjected to egregious sexual, physical, and mental abuse
- Traffickers use bodily and mental injury as a means of keeping the victim in fear as to deter escape attempts
- Sex trafficking victims are at particularly high risk for contracting HIV and the spread of HIV is a public health matter of grave concern

Currently Georgia taxpayers foot the bill for rehabilitating children who've been exploited by adults looking for profit or pleasure. Recovery from these traumatic experiences takes months of intensive therapy and support services.

The General Assembly has a compelling interest in raising revenue specifically to fund rehabilitative treatment centers for children who have been commercially sexually exploited.

A Georgia Adult Entertainment Surcharge will directly target the negative secondary effects of adult entertainment venues. A \$5 per patron fee, sufficiently modest so as to avoid interfering with First Amendment expression, will go into the Crime Victims' Emergency Fund to help commercially sexually exploited minors recover.

Well-documented links between CSEM activity and erotic dance clubs in our state distinguishes a Georgia Adult Entertainment Surcharge from the Texas Statute that was struck down.

We will no longer tolerate the abuse of our children for profit. Not anymore. Not in our state.