

Subject: The Stitch Chicks - Reema's Story

From: Muslim Civic Coalition <info-ilmuslimciviccoalition.org@shared1.ccsend.com>

Date: 3/20/2024, 10:33 AM

To: mcateed@mokena159.org

Ramadan Mubarak

We hope you enjoyed the first installment from our *Stories of Civic Power* series, **Lunchtime Blues**. Today, we'll be highlighting another transformative law championed by the Coalition: the **Inclusive Athletic Attire Act**!

Invest in the Muslim Civic Coalition this Ramadan as we strive to pass just laws that advocate for issues that are important to us and empower our community!

SUPPORT OUR WORK - CONTRIBUTE TODAY

Meet Reema Kamran!

Reema is a community organizer, mom, co-founder of Muslim Civic Coalition, and ball hockey player in a Chicago Muslim Athletics Group!

Reema's story of the joy of sports and freedom to play as an adult shares the inspiration for why supporting legislation like the Athletic Attire Act is critical for all of us!

[The Stitch Chicks - Reema's Story](#)

Click on the video above to watch her story come to life!

Reema's Story

I never played sports as a kid - there was no point. I, and others like me, followed a formula - play till you're in middle school but then, give up. We knew the fight to get an exception for uniforms from the coach would lead to embarrassment, ridicule, and rejection.

Now my Sunday nights belong to the Mosque Gym where I am the Goalie for the Stitch Chicks - named after one of our teammates who got stitches above her right eye during the Hockey Draft. We're an intergenerational team of Muslim women athletes with ChiTown Muslimah Athletics on a mission to invest in our physical, emotional, and spiritual health through sports and sisterhood!

The CTM athletics has organized teams that play/participate in pickleball, hockey, volleyball, baseball, tennis, badminton, and the Hot Chocolate 5K throughout the year. I picked up *hockey* with CTM after friends raved about the sisterhood and the feeling of belonging and freedom through sports as they support each other, fundraise, support causes, and build community every day.

Back to the Game - It is Sunday Night!

I am in an intense team huddle with the Stitch Chicks - discussing how to cover the super fast center from the Hip Checkers whilst providing coverage for our goal. We are undefeated to date but this competitive team brings it every week - and we need a strategy!!! The game starts again - I am back in the Goalie box - a ball to the face rattles my ears - but I block the goal - I look at my teammates - they are focused - The ball is back in play - we got it - we shoot - she scores - we celebrate and then we pause to pray and be grateful no one was hurt.

Today, when I speak to my teammates - doctors, attorneys, educators, community leaders, and moms - we joke about the joys and challenges of playing hard in our 40s - but I am in awe of their amazing talent and sheer passion for sports & the game. When I think of all the ways that team sports have enriched this time of my life, I also ask myself why I had to wait this long for the experience.

Now we have internationally recognized athletes as role models, from basketball players like Bilqis Abdul-Qaadir to Olympic fencers like Ibtihaj Muhammad - but I can't help but think about what could've been possible for girls like me who were pressured into choosing faith over athletics because of rigid uniform policies that violated my religious freedoms.

That's why getting legislation like the

The Athletic Attire Bill passed was SO critical for all of us!

It's a simple, yet impactful law allowing all athletes to compete based on talent vs. the way they dress. Whether it's a turban, hijab, swim attire that offers more coverage, or pants vs. shorts - attire is no longer a barrier to participation in athletics. We've got next!

Ibtihaj's Billboard reads BE THE HERO YOU DIDN'T HAVE

Her words ring in my ears

"I hope every little girl that passes one feels inspired, motivated to become the version of herself and believes that with a bit of hard work and a crazy dream, she can do anything."

And I want to remind the future athletes -

We will carve the way for you - so you can be you.

Inclusive Athletic Attire Act

This bill allows student-athletes in Illinois to modify their uniforms for modesty, cultural/religious, or comfort reasons, and still participate in team sports without needing a waiver.

At a time when our communities are most vulnerable, the fight for civic justice is more crucial than ever before. Support our ongoing efforts for representation and inclusivity by donating today!

SUPPORT OUR WORK - CONTRIBUTE TODAY

Follow our *Stories of Civic Power* series on social media!

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [Instagram](#) [LinkedIn](#)

www.MuslimCivicCoalition.org

Muslim Civic Coalition | Impact House, 200 W. Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60606

[Unsubscribe](#) mcateed@mokena159.org

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@ilmuslimciviccoalition.org powered by

Trusted Email from Constant Contact - Try it FREE today.

Try email marketing for free today!