

Subject: Lunchtime Blues - Yaasha's Story

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Ramadan Mubarak

May the spirit of this month inspire unity and compassion, offering solace and strength to those facing challenges in our communities and around the world.

Follow along as we share our *Stories of Civic Power* series - highlighting the importance of transformative laws championed by the Coalition, starting with the **Faith By Plate 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 Yaasha Abraham!

As a young child, Yaasha faced a daily challenge that many of us often overlook - the simple joy of sharing a meal with peers.

Yaasha's story of personal frustration from lack of access to viable school lunch options as a child underscores the importance of passing legislation like Faith By Plate, which is still in need of voter support and advocacy in the State Assembly.

[Lunchtime Blues - Yaasha's Story](#)

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

Yaasha's Story

The smell of today's cafeteria pizza is so strong you can almost taste it but instead of joining your friends to eat it, you know you'll be eating the smashed peanut butter sandwich your parents stuffed in your lunchbox because, as always, there is only one kind of pizza being served today: sausage. Unfortunately, there are never options at school with you in mind.

I was that schoolgirl nearly 40 years ago, and though it sounds like forever ago, I remember how that time made me feel like it was yesterday. I felt sadness, frustration, singled out, and to be honest, just plain jealous that everyone else got to have so many choices. People may not realize it, but not sharing a common meal is an easy way for kids to feel lonely at lunchtime. It feels outdated and unfair that kids today are still left out during the most social times of the school day.

As I got older, I also thought about how expensive it was for my parents to provide school lunch every single day for my huge family. Did you know that over 40% of Muslim families in America live on less than \$30,000/year? Although I was raised Jewish, this was no different for my family. School lunch is supposed to ease that burden for families, but not having kosher, halal, or meatless meals leaves a lot of families out in the cold.

That's why supporting legislation like Faith By Plate is so important to me. It's my hope that every kid in Illinois can get excited about pizza on Tuesdays and know that there's a slice there with their name on it.

Faith by Plate - a bill more than 2 years in the making, requires critical advocacy and voter mobilization to finally take it off the State Assembly floor and into the law books - making halal, kosher, and meatless meals a reality across Illinois in all state-sponsored facilities.

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!

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

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