

Maimah at I AM Modern

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(1 Vote)



When Florida Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz stepped up to the podium during last week's press conference at the Capitol to speak about her battle with breast cancer, standing next to her was an I Am Modern Mom--Maimah Karmo. They were there to introduce the Education and Awareness Requires Learning Young Act (EARLY Act), a legislation that highlight the breast cancer risks facing young women under the age of 40 and to empower these women with the tools they need to prevent and fight this deadly disease.

I was fortunate to have been present at the press conference that was both poignant and empowering. Having seen Wasserman Schultz speak at various TV appearances, I was not prepared to see her break down as she discussed her seven surgeries, all of which took place while she was campaigning for her re-election and all which she kept private. She said she didn't want to be seen as the Congresswoman who had breast cancer; she didn't want the illness to 'define' her.

After she spoke Maimah, who founded the Tiger Lilly Foundation after dealing with her own cancer diagnosis, addressed the media stressing the importance of early detection in women under 40. She reminded the audience, who also consisted of survivors that, "there are over a quarter million women living in the United States today who are diagnosed with breast cancer under 40. These women are not just statistics, they're heart beats. They need education, they need to be aware, and they need hands on support."

Maimah has been very active in the breast cancer movement, appearing on Oprah in September 2008, in various magazines, and on the lecture circuit. Her book, How Breast Cancer Saved my Life, will be published shortly.



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