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Ill State Rep. candidate Abdelnasser Rashid slams opponent Mike Zalewski's vote to deny reproductive rights

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Abdelnasser Rashid blasted the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday for its expected ruling that will overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 case that enshrined women's right to abortion in federal law.

"This ruling aims to turn back the clock, threatening women's reproductive rights nationwide," Rashid said, "Before 1973, women still had abortions, but by making them legal, *Roe* made them far safer. With federal protections set to be overturned, state legislatures must step up. We need to codify women's right to safe and legal abortion in federal law."

Rashid also called out Illinois State Representative Michael Zalewski for his failure to support efforts in the General Assembly to protect abortion rights. In 2021, Zalewski joined right-wing Republicans to vote against the repeal of a state law requiring minors to notify their parents before having an abortion that, according to Human Rights Watch, had forced "young people to continue pregnancies against their will or to endure abuse, humiliation, and punishment by unsupportive parents."

"Voting against the Youth Health and Safety Act was a vote to put the health and lives of young women at risk," Rashid said.

Zalewski is the only Democratic incumbent facing a primary challenge who is not supported by either Planned Parenthood or Personal PAC, both leading voices in the pro-choice movement.

Terry Cosgrove, President & CEO of Personal PAC recently stated that Zalewski "is not a pro-choice incumbent." Rashid, who is running against Zalewski in the Democratic primary to represent the 21st District, believes that ensuring safe and legal access to abortion is non-negotiable.