



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Representative Maria Syms (R-28)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Rep. Maria Syms: Throat Punch Comment Makes Rep. Rubalcava Unfit for Office

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – Representative Maria Syms (R-28) today released the following statement regarding a violent comment made by Representative Jesus Rubalcava (D-4).

Responding to a comment about Senator Debbie Lesko (R-21) on Facebook, Representative Rubalcava said, “I wanted to punch her in the throat!”

“It takes a small man to fantasize about violence against women on social media, and nothing less than zero tolerance is acceptable,” said Representative Syms. **“This is not the kind of behavior toward women we should expect as a society from a man or a father, much less a school board member or an elected Representative. This issue transcends politics or party.”**

“Every person in this body should stand against such statements. We have made great strides in our legislature – just this session passing the rape kit bill and the sexual assault counselor bill, and soon a victims’ rights bill. This violent statement sets us all back as a representative body and as a state.”

“I have this to say to Mr. Rubalcava – for myself and all the women and victims of violence: apology not accepted. Mr. Rubalcava is showing himself unfit for public office.”

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