



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CS/CS/HB 47 Signed Into Law**

**Tallahassee, FL** – Yesterday, Governor DeSantis signed **CS/CS/HB 47 – Specific Medical Diagnoses in Child Protective Investigations** into law.

Sponsored by **Representatives Robin Bartleman** and **Patt Maney** in the House and carried in the Senate by **Senator Barbara Sharief (D-Davie)**, the legislation establishes additional safeguards in cases where certain medical conditions may present symptoms that can be mistaken for abuse.

“As a healthcare professional, I understand the importance of accurate diagnoses and informed decision-making,” said **Senator Sharief**. “This legislation strengthens communication between medical experts and child welfare professionals so that investigations are based on the most complete and reliable information available.”

**Representative Bartleman** responded to the passage of CS/CS/HB 47:

“The signing of this bill marks an important step toward ensuring child abuse investigations are fair, thorough, and guided by accurate medical evidence. This bill aligns with successful legislation in other states and strengthens our process by protecting both children and families, ensuring that wrongful accusations are avoided while legitimate cases are addressed. Thank you to the mothers who bravely shared their experiences throughout the committee process.”

**Representative Maney** added:

"After two years of heart-breaking and dramatic testimony, Governor DeSantis's signature of this strong, balanced bill is a big win for Florida's families. Now, with a second medical opinion issued to the Department of Children and Families for children in protective services, this law will add another imperative layer of protection for parental rights."

CS/CS/HB 47 takes effect on July 1, 2026.

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