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**Representative Michael Grieco Files Bill to
Create Criminal Penalties for Fraudulent Vaccine Verification**

Tallahassee, FL – Representative Michael Grieco (D-Miami) filed [HB 47](#) today.

Representative Grieco, who most-recently sat as Ranking Minority Member of the House Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and is a criminal defense attorney and former state prosecutor, has just filed a bill to make it a 3rd degree felony to counterfeit, forge, alter, clone, or possesses fraudulent verification of vaccination against any disease.

Representative Grieco stated, "With the COVID 19 pandemic having no end in sight and the protracted debates about vaccination and verification requirements, we are seeing an exponential increase in the creation and use of fraudulent proof of vaccine. Although it a federal offense to create and use any document bearing the CDC logo, local and state law enforcement maintains few tools to battle these criminal activities."

"I strongly encourage everyone to get vaccinated against COVID 19, but I recognize that everyone also has that choice to make, but if you choose to not get vaccinated you do not have the right to pretend you did, and in-turn lower your guard and the guard of everyone else. There are many circumstances in Florida in which vaccinated folks do not have the same testing and mask requirements as those who are unvaccinated, and there is a reason for that. Multiple cruise lines and employers are also requiring vaccination proof, with good reason. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but you're not entitled to your own facts. This bill is an effort to make sure we are all operating with the same set of facts."

"Unrelated to COVID 19, this bill will also apply to parents who provide fake vaccine paperwork for children upon entry into public school."

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