

Insurance and Real Estate Committee
February 27, 2020

Testimony in Support of:

H.B. No. 5248, H.B. No. 5254, An Act Establishing A Task Force To Study Health Insurance Coverage for Peer Support Services In This State.

H.B. No. 5254, An Act Requiring Health Insurance Coverage For Medication-Assisted Treatment For Opioid Use Disorder

H.B. No. 5256 An Act Concerning Required Health Insurance Coverage For Detoxification And Substance Abuse Services

Co-Chairs Scanlon and Lesser; Vice Chairs Dathan and Hartley; Ranking Member Pavalock-D'Amato and Kelly; and distinguished members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

My name is AnnaMarie Fraioli.

I have suffered two losses in my life from drug overdose. My baby brother and my fiancé. No matter how many times we reached out for help from different agency's. Seems as if help wasn't close. It was hard my fiancé was 33 years old when he past and my brother 23. We need change. Both the people who sold to them were never prosecuted even when there was plenty of proof they sold to them. Help needs to be available. Hospitals need to stop turning these people who need help away. Releasing them to the death of them.

The loss is not the only thing we suffer from. The family ties are lost we all have guilt of what we could have done. for my brother my parents and siblings will never be the same. For my fiancé our children will never be the same. Kids growing up without their father because the system failed them. But the reality of it was if they didn't have the right insurance again they couldn't get help.

I hope change is to come !

I am urging you to consider these bills to ensure insurance companies are required to provide help to those seeking services and to utilize MAT as a standard form of treatment, the data suggests this is one of the most successful ways to help those recovering from addiction.