

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 Michael Grube.

To whom it may concern,

I feel prompted to contact you on behalf of all those who need help. My story is long and complicated as most are. Our family had a brother afflicted by the opioid epidemic. He lied cheated stole and all the other adverse things associated with this disease. He spent time in jail and in rehab. He is clean now and will hopefully remain that way but he struggled for a long time. Always finding help to be out of reach and resources seriously lacking. I hope that when someone seeks help it is readily available.

My ex wife also was an addict. Her addiction cost her her marriage her children her home her friendships and her health. Even though I detest her with every ounce of my being I hope one day when she seeks help it is there for her.

And finally last year my best friend lost his son. It was the most heart breaking thing to watch from the sidelines. And as we are on the sidelines it is left to our elected officials who are in the game to carry out the will of the people. This is our will for better laws and above all else better treatment options and facilities.

Thank you for your time, as most families with opioid afflictions tomorrow is never guaranteed so please make today count!

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.