

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 Donovan Ward.*

*I'm a firefighter-EMT and I see the fallout from the Opioid epidemic first hand. I've had to physically ventilate patients (that's me manually breathing for them), administer Naloxone (Narcan), perform CPR on patients (both young and old, rich and poor) and had to comfort those left behind.*

*Big Pharma needs to be held accountable. We need to get those that have become addicted the help that they need to get off this poison and ultimately we need services in place and a willingness to act on behalf of our citizen and legislators to counteract years of this festering problem.*

*The chickens have come home to roost. What are you going to do about it? What would you do if the next call I go on is for one of your loved ones?*

*Don't delay, take action TODAY before it's too late.*

*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.*