

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 Rhiannon Benedetto.*

*On January 4, 2018 the father of my children left this earth. For years I watched him struggle with addiction and witnessed the impact it had on my children. The broken promises, the missed birthdays and holidays, the graduations that came and went without acknowledgement because he was in too deep. When my kids were younger they blamed themselves for not being "enough" for him to want to live sober. My daughter is lucky enough to have memories of her dad clean, my son doesn't have those...instead he mourns the death because that was the day his hope of having a dad died. Truth is, he hadn't been living for a long time, he missed his babies growing up because his addiction kept him away.*

*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.*