

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 Linda Bishop.*

*My youngest son had a horrible addiction to Soboxen. A drug used to treat an addiction to opiates. My drug of choice was pain pills opioids and if I couldn't find any Molly was always there. My son pick up where I left off. His girlfriend who is also addicted to opiates. They just lost there firstborn son. The state of New York took him at birth. My family has never been able to meet him. He was born addicted. My first born grandson out there because his parents are addicts. My son has been to jail more times than his years on Earth. He has threatened my mom, his father and myself. Him and I have physically faught to many times. Yet he still goes back to Soboxen and pain pills over all. I am at the point I am ready to wash my hands of him. He's not allowed in any family members house, because he is a known theft. I have had to throw him out in the middle of the night in a snow storm with no where to go because he's not allowed to spend the night. I just want my baby back.*

*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.*