

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 Jennifer Bradshaw.*

*My brother passed away in June of 2019. He was a Combat Veteran who suffered a TBI and severe PTSD upon returning from Iraq. Due to his injury he became addicted to pain medication which eventually evolved into a heroin addiction. Our family suffered with him throughout his battle until he finally chose to become clean. After two years of sobriety and trying to I rebuild his life, his "old friend" reached out to him asking if he "needed" anything and did so for several days. I'm a moment of weakness he chose to use, unfortunately, it was mostly Fentanyl. He never stood a chance. That early morning in June my 2 year old son and I walked into my brothers room and it was the worst day of our lives. I don't want any other family to have to go through the incredible pain and heartache we felt and continue to feel every single day.*

*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.*