

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 Cederberg.

I have watched this disease take the lives of many young people I have known, and my best friend is currently battling a 9-year phentanyl addiction. It is a horrific sight, robbing him of his life since age 16 and infecting him with Hepatitis C. It's clutch is so powerful that after detox and rehab over 14 times, he just cannot stop. He has accepted the fact that he will die an addict and I am powerless to help him, as is his loving family.

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.