

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 Chirayu Shah.

The word epidemic is used consistently when the topic of opioids is raised. No matter where you consume your news, TV, Radio, Social Media, Newspaper... doesn't matter the view and description towards opioids is always shared in a very similar viewpoint. Not many will argue that there is a problem involving opioids and opioid addiction, but you rarely hear what is being done about it.

This is the first time I am seeing and hearing consistent efforts to not only acknowledge the problem (which is easy), but more importantly what are we as a society going to do to fix it (very hard part). This is why this Law needs approval from lawmakers and also should translate to a nation wide movement and start changing the media from always saying there is an "Opioid Epidemic" to start saying we have an "Opioid Solution" "Opioid Addition Help"!

Thank you,

Chirayu Shah

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.