

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 Terri-Lynne DeFino.

In 2015, our 25-year-old son died of an opiate overdose. His story is nothing new, and that's the saddest part of all.

Opiates may be a necessary pain drug, but there are others squashed by the power of those making money on this highly addictive drug, one we have known the dangers of for centuries. It's not just a painkiller, but a "turn off" drug, which is a huge component of the abuse. Something needs to happen. Now. Greed can't continue taking precedence over all these ruined lives.

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.