

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 Emily Elander.*

*My 24 year old son has struggled with Heroin addiction since 18. He's been homeless, in detoxes, programs short and long term, overdosed 3 times, narcaned over 8 times, the last overdose he was blue before the 3rd dose of narcan revived him. He was literally released an hour later just to do it all over again. He's been told to call everyday to a program for an available bed, the best was being turned away from a program because his urine tested clean! They told him come back with a dirty urine and we'll admit you. How disturbing is that? No thanks to any program but my son has been clean for 4 months, he's doing all the work because this system has let him down. We are far out of the woods for his recovery but he's being his own advocate and trying to get his life in order. Something seriously needs to happen within the system to help the addicts and there families!*

*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.*