

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 Melissa Florio.

I lost my Husband on 8/23/19 to an accidental Heroin laced with Fentanyl overdose. There needs to be more help given to the addicts that are seeking help instead of just arresting them and sending them to prison, that is helping no one. The opioid epidemic in this country is at a crisis level in my opinion, something needs to be done, sadly there is going to be a whole generation of children growing up with a single parent because the other was lost to this epidemic.

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.