

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 Thomas Herr.

I live in New Milford. Although the Opioid and addiction crisis has not affected my family directly, I've watched several families suffer greatly, and one of those families is the Morrissey's. I e watched and known several addicts struggle with their addiction, a terrible disease. Amazingly I also watched them struggle in the fight for their lives while trying to work with municipal and state managed "support systems" that made their struggle with recovery more difficult than it needs to be. Some have died as a result. The system is broken at many levels and needs to be fixed. Please do something about it.

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.