

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 Cheryl Hill.

I loss two family members due to this opioid epidemic, one 30 and the other 20 years old. Both leaving behind babies. I also know some people in recovery. It's a big problem and we need change in a few ways! It's hard for people to get the proper treatment either because of insurance or because there aren't any beds available.

Insurance companies shouldn't dictate how long someone gets treatment. They aren't in the medical field. Addiction is a disease and needs proper treatment. My nephew was denied extra time at his treatment center and did his classes told by the programs and he passed away two months later. If he got the extra time he asked for I believe he would be here today. He has to leave state to get into a place because we don't have enough beds in Connecticut. There are too many families battling this.

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.