

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 Susan Leonard.

As a school counselor for over 25 years, I have watch in horror as the opioid epidemic has taken hold in this country. And this epidemic has hit all ages, races and economic levels. Now retired, I am stunned to see the number of young people who are dying. I see the ages in the obituaries and realize that many of these deaths are from this terrible epidemic that won't let go. Too often I see the names of children who were my students-good kids that couldn't escape.

We must do something about this problem. Too many are suffering from the greed of others ! Please take a stand!!

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.