

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 Tiffani Little.*

*I am 48 years old and I have been permanently disabled for 8 years now due to drugs. I'm in a wheel chair all the time, besides going to bed. I can't speak due to having a stroke from the drugs. Addiction is an illness. Addicts don't always get the right treatment they need. We have a problem and too many people are dying. My 20 year old nephew passed away in 2019 due to a fentanyl-laced heroin overdose. Several services failed my nephew. He was at the hospital, and then the police station. At the police station he was giving a suicide screening and he failed it. Within hours from failing the screening the local police department released him during the middle of the night. Soon after being released he was found dead at a trap house, well known by the local police. Several overdoses have been at this trap house yet the local police don't do anything about it. The police department never even told my family about the suicide screening. Or that he was being released. My nephew should have been on a 72 hour hold after failing a suicide screening. We need change. We need to get the people seeking help into treatment!*

*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.*