

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 Strongbow Lone Eagle.*

*I'm a 16 year old young man whose had relatives die of Overdose. My cousin Brian Cody Waldron died of an overdose on August 10 2019, after going into rehab for several months his insurance denied him more time where he was staying. He had trouble staying away from the drugs but one bad night changed he had relapse, after improvement this one bad night changed how he was going to deal with things. He died in a trap-house where he was given fentanyl and those people didn't call the cops until a couple hours later. No matter how old we are we all are affected by this Opioid epidemic in CT. People die everyday from overdose in the United States and it is time to stand up to the problem and protect our future children from this disease.*

*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.*