

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 Patrick Mitchell.*

*My family has been impacted by opioid use across several fronts. Having laws like this in place could definitely have prevented the loss of life of two people in my world. The first was a friend and all-around great guy named, Todd. He would have given you the shirt off of his back to help you when he could. Super smart and funny but he could never kick the addiction to drugs. He was denied a stint in rehab and it would lead to him losing the battle with it months later.*

*Another is the great kid that this bill is named after. Now I know that he was an adult but I see him as a kid because he was so young and still had so much life ahead of him. He had a little one on the way and already had a daughter who was his world. He knew that he needed additional help and was denied an extended stay by his insurance.*

*The last one is my brother-in-law. My kids have been denied the chance to ever get to know their uncle because he has a problem that has lead him to either be in jail or lost out on the streets. The current system is not able to provide the rehab that he needs to get better. My wife's family has been struggling with how best to help him but it is not something that they can do on their own.*

*We need things to change and this law is an excellent start.*

*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.*