

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 Heidi Norcross.

I am a maternity nurse. I have worked with moms and their newborn babies for almost 30 years. Every year we are seeing more and more babies born addicted because their mothers are addicted! This year alone we have cared for several families affected by the loss of a loved one addicted to drugs just weeks before the birth of their newborn child. Something has to be done and it needs to start with increasing the penalties for those providing these drugs and an easier way into treatment for those with substance abuse disorders.

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.