

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 Elizabeth Pooler.*

*My family has been affected by the opioid crisis in several ways, my youngest daughter (now 33) has used for 17 years- right now has been clean for 6 months. Getting her into a treatment facility is always a nightmare. The facilities want money upfront and no insurance- you best look elsewhere. Addiction is a disease and needs to be addressed as such - would a hospital turn down someone with diabetes??*

*Shouldn't the drug companies have some sort of responsibility for this crisis??*

*As her family she has stolen money and other items throughout our house to get a fix!*

*She had two children- one now eight and the other 19 months. We are on the process of adopting the 8 yo as we have raised her since she was one- we got temporary legal custody when she was two. Which another problem- grandparents or other family raising the addicted persons children- really needs to be addressed as we are pushed to the side! Addiction is a family disease!!*

*We ended up getting the 19 month when he was eight months old- and had him for approximately 9 months.*

*It has been an emotional roller coaster for the whole family including our daughter-*

*Weeks would go by when we didn't hear from our daughter- was she alive??*

*Yes- legislation needs to happen in the many aspects of addiction! I have so much more to say ...*

*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.*