

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 Joy Scozzafava.

We lost our son, Henry Jr to an opioid overdose in May 2019. He was released from a detox facility after only 3 days. We feel that even though he voluntarily signed himself out he should have been kept there or sent directly to a rehab facility for a mandatory time frame. We were not even aware of the fact that he was released. We are hoping that somehow with legislative help that perhaps a longer mandatory stay can be put into place. Our loved ones are being put out on the streets and they are not mentally stable due to their addiction.

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.