

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 Cathy Somers.

Everyone knows someone impacted by this. My cousin has full custody of his biological daughter and my cousin's sister has custody of his partner's son from her former boyfriend, who died from an overdose when the baby was only months old. The mother of these two children has supervised visitation only and currently lives in a sober house. She lost her home, her job, her automobile and her children because of addiction. These two young kids don't know what a real mother's love is; they only know what they lived with an addict until my cousin got custody. They are only 5 and 7 now, but their lives have been impacted forever by this. We need to do something; it won't go away by itself.

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.