

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 Casey Villa.

I am 17 years old and was taken from my mother at the age of 11. I've been raised by my grandparents because my father passed away and my mother became an addict. She was put on medication for anxiety and depression. Soon after that she was on pain medication. My mother soon became addicted to heroin. DCF came and picked me up from school in the 5th grade and I wasn't allowed to go back home. That was very scary and no child should have to go through that. We need more beds available for people who need to get help. And we need better insurance programs. My 20 year old cousin was in rehab in New Jersey because there wasn't any beds available in Connecticut. After the 28 days he called home telling his parents he wasn't ready to leave that he needed more time in the program. The insurance wouldn't pay for anymore time. They said he had to do out patient programs. Well that wasn't what he needed. He went to his out patient program the day before he was found dead in a trap house. He needed more help in patient. No insurance company should deny anyone help they need. My Uncle had good insurance for my cousin and they denied him the extra time. Please help we have a problem with this opioid epidemic.

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.