

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 Miranda Villa.*

*My name is Miranda, I've been heavily impacted by this opioid epidemic. From not being able to get a bed because the person had clean pee or because they even had a dirty pee, it blows my mind the struggle these poor people have just trying to get their life back. There should be way more beds available and they shouldn't be so hard to get. I lost almost all my friends I grew up with, I lost my cousin and my father. My cousin is currently in treatment she has thankfully been clean for about a year and my oldest cousin struggles to get clean. My mother also suffers from this addiction and can not seem to find a rehab to help her. The restrictions go far beyond where they need to actually be these people who are suffering aren't just drug addicts they are like us they just want to be helped and to be shown that they are equally as important as the rest of us. I beg of you for the sake of my child future make it easier for families to get the help they so rightfully deserve. People don't deserve to die no matter who you are.*

*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.*