

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 Sharon Villa.

I became an addict after my children's father committed suicide. I lost custody of my children three times due to my addiction. I also have mental health problems and when I try to get help I can't get any because no rehab or sober house allows you to be on the anxiety medication that im on. Which is the only medication that works due to all the trauma in my life. I have overdosed myself once and on August 10th I lost my 20 year old nephew who was like my second son that was a huge loss for the whole family. And exactly 5 months and 2 days later we loss my father adding more trauma I've stayed clean since I made my dad a promise to stay clean. I have tried to get into a sober house and can't get help due to my medication. These laws need to change and help people with addiction problems, it is an overwhelming problem in our society that needs to be recognized.

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.