

HB216: Child Support Calculation Amendments

Sponsor: Representative Teuscher



SSI v SSDI

- **Supplement Security Income (SSI) vs Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)**
 - SSI is a needs-based program that provides monthly payments to those with limited income and resources. It applies to those who are 65 or older, blind, or disabled.
 - SSDI is an insurance program for individuals who have worked, paid Social Security taxes, and have a severe, long-term disability. SSDI is meant to replace lost wages, so its payments are typically higher than SSI, which is intended to help meet basic needs like food, shelter, and clothing.

Current Law

- **Utah Law**
 - Utah law excludes both SSI and SSDI from “gross income” when calculating child support.
 - Utah is the only state that excludes both SSI and SSDI from a parent’s income for child support.
- **Other States**
 - Nearly every state excludes SSI as income for child support calculations.
 - Most states include SSDI as gross income because it reflects a parent’s work history and their capacity to pay child support.

What does HB216 Do?

- **HB216 allows Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) to be included in a parent’s “gross income” when calculating child support.**
- **HB 216 preserves judicial discretion in child support decisions.** While SSDI may be considered as income, the bill does not require judges to automatically include it in every child support calculation.
- **HB216 ensures fairness in parental financial responsibility.** One parent should not carry the brunt of the financial burden for child support simply because the other parent’s income comes from Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).
- **HB216 also helps ensure that children receive the full financial support they are entitled to.** Every child deserves the resources necessary to support their well-being and success.