

# HB216: Child Support Calculation Amendments

Sponsor: Rep Teuscher; Floor Sponsor: Sen. Weiler

---



## 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.**
- **HB216 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.