

Pilot program for Children with Special Healthcare Needs Passes House

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Rep. Ed Redd (R-Logan), at left, with constituents.

On Thursday, Feb. 18, the Utah House of Representatives unanimously passed HB199, a bill introduced by Rep. Ed Redd (R-Logan) that would provide secondary Medicaid support to families of children with special health care needs.

The Pilot Program for Children with Disabilities and Complex Medical Conditions would provide a modest weekly respite of three hours plus Medicaid secondary insurance support for about 500 families who love and care for their special-needs child in their home.

“Without the loving 24/7 care of their parents, these kids would end up institutionalized in a nursing home,” Redd said in a Facebook post. “Due to the complex and expensive needs of these children, many of these families are facing serial bankruptcy and sometimes divorce or giving up their child to state custody. This bill supports these incredible life-long efforts of these parents so they can continue to provide the best loving care that is possible in their homes.”

Redd credited Emilee and Georgia Wagner, Jennifer Adams, Rep. David Lifferth (R-Eagle Mountain), and staff from Utah Department of Health for helping to bring the bill to fruition.

The bill now moves to the Utah Senate.