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## **Looper Working to Improve the Lives of Children with Disabilities**

Children born with disabilities who are facing challenges to essential health care services could get a boost under a proposal by state Rep. Marsha Looper's, R-Calhan.

"These children and their parents should not have to wait in line for access to vital health care services," Looper said. "This is unacceptable; we can do much better for these children and offer better options to institutional care by providing quality assistance for their needs."

Looper's Senate Bill 002, recently sent to the governor, would require the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing to recover payments made by Medicaid that were actually the responsibility of private insurance companies. Recoveries would be used to pay the costs for additional assistance to families and to reduce the waiting list of persons with a developmental disability.

Additionally, it requires the Department to act as a representative for families' regarding their Medicaid claims and establish an Ombudsman's office to assist families through the red-tape of Medicaid bureaucracy.

"These individuals were dealt a hand in life that requires patience, understanding, and never-ending hard work from their family members and friends," Looper said "These children and families face enormous obstacles and should not have to do it alone under these limited circumstances."

SB 002 passed through the House and Senate successfully and now awaits the governor's consideration.

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