



To: Senate Finance Committee (Sen. Hoffman & Sen. Olson, Chairs)

Re: Senate Bill 167 (Kawasaki)

February 23, 2026

Dear Sen. Hoffman, Sen. Olson, and Committee Members,

We write in support of SB 167 and urge the Committee to pass it to the Senate floor.

All Alaskans are entitled to their annual Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) payment. However, under current law, an Alaskan's PFD payment is forfeited during a period of incarceration, even in cases where the conviction is later overturned and the charges against the individual have been dismissed.

**Senate Bill 167** fixes that problem by simply allowing Alaskans who have had their convictions overturned and charges dismissed to obtain PFD payments that were withheld during incarceration based on that now-overturned conviction.

Our nonprofit **After Innocence** has provided free post-release assistance to hundreds of exonerees nationwide over the last decade, including four exonerees in Alaska. In working directly with exonerees across the country, we have seen how people released after wrongful incarceration struggle to rebuild their lives. Providing Alaska's exonerees with a simple process to obtain PFD payments withheld due to a conviction that has since been overturned will help.

One further suggestion: Given the difficulty of providing notice to Alaskans who have had their convictions overturned that they may file a claim for PFD payments, the Committee should lengthen the time limit for making such a claim: allowing three years (rather than just one year) would enable this bill to more effectively achieve its aim of restoring the PFD payments to which these Alaskans are entitled.

Thank you,

Jon Eldan

Founder and Executive Director

After Innocence

(415) 307-3386

[www.after-innocence.org](http://www.after-innocence.org)