

**From:** Karen Merwin [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 5, 2025 7:23 AM  
**To:** Sen. Matt Claman; Sen. Jesse Kiehl; Sen. Robert Myers; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Löki Tobin  
**Subject:** Opposition to SB 12 – Impact on Low-Income Obligor

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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## FAMILY REUNION

Subject: Opposition to SB 12 – Impact on Low-Income Obligor

Dear Honorable Senate Judiciary Committee Members,

On behalf of Family Reunion, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to supporting children and families, we respectfully oppose SB 12 due to its disproportionate impact on low-income child support obligors who struggle to meet financial demands.

While we fully support ensuring that children receive financial support, this bill fails to consider the realities of obligors who are already financially strained. Automatically filing a Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) application on behalf of individuals with past-due child support—without their consent—eliminates any opportunity for them to use those funds for basic living expenses, legal obligations, or efforts to improve their financial stability. Many low-income obligors are already making good-faith efforts to pay child support, and this bill could further push them into financial hardship, making long-term support for their children even less sustainable.

Additionally, the bill's broad residency verification measures—which include social media records and utility bills—raise serious concerns about privacy and accuracy. Mistakes in verification could lead to misallocation of funds or wrongful claims, creating unnecessary legal disputes and financial burdens.

We urge lawmakers to consider a more balanced approach that supports children without further penalizing struggling obligors. A more equitable solution would involve means-based adjustments or hardship exemptions for those who are unable to meet financial demands despite their best efforts.

We appreciate your time and consideration on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out for further discussion.

Sincerely,  
Karen Renee Merwin  
Director of Policy  
Family Reunion USA  
[www.familyreunionUSA.org](http://www.familyreunionUSA.org)

*Family Reunion is a national, non-profit 501(c)(3) organization that works with lawmakers, existing organizations, and experts dedicated to making much-needed changes to the family court system so the best interests of children can be supported. We focus on positively influencing family laws and policies that often discount one parent and ultimately harm the children. We believe the best parent is both parents.*