



State of Wisconsin
1997 - 1998 LEGISLATURE

LRBs0199/1
JS:kaf:jf

**SENATE SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1,
TO 1997 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 57**

June 10, 1997 - Offered by COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES, AGING,
CORRECTIONS, VETERANS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS.

1 **Relating to:** memorializing Congress to recognize the services rendered to this
2 country during the Vietnam War by Laotian and Montagnard troops.

3 Whereas, many Laotian (Hmong-Lao) and Montagnard units fought for and
4 with U.S. armed forces during the Vietnam War, and more than 20,000 of them were
5 killed, along with countless numbers who were wounded while fighting with their
6 American allies; and

7 Whereas, they were told by representatives of our government that the United
8 States would not abandon them if the United States left Southeast Asia; and

9 Whereas, many fled their own countries after the war to avoid persecution,
10 imprisonment or death for their loyalty to America and the armed forces of our
11 nation; and

12 Whereas, many of these Laotian (Hmong-Lao) and Montagnard soldiers and
13 their families have been accepted into our country as legal immigrants; and

1 Whereas, while fighting for the United States, many of these veterans, as young
2 soldiers, had little or no time for education in their homeland, and therefore had
3 great difficulty learning American customs and the level of English needed to qualify
4 for U.S. citizenship; and

5 Whereas, these legal immigrants are now in danger of losing supplemental
6 security income, food stamps and all federal means-tested benefits; now, therefore,
7 be it

8 **Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That** the Wisconsin
9 legislature hereby respectfully urges President Clinton and Congress to recognize
10 these sacrifices and service to our country by granting full and immediate U.S.
11 citizenship to these Laotian (Hmong-Lao) and Montagnard soldiers who served with
12 special guerilla units operating in support of the United States during the Vietnam
13 War, as well as to their wives and children; and, be it further

14 **Resolved, That** the assembly chief clerk shall provide a copy of this joint
15 resolution to President Clinton, the presiding officers of the U.S. house of
16 representatives and the U.S. senate, the chairs and members of the Senate and
17 House Judiciary Committees and to all the members of the Wisconsin delegation to
18 Congress.

19 (END)