
Relating to: opposing efforts by the State Department and Trump Administration to allow for the deportation of Hmong and Lao U.S. residents to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic.

Whereas, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, on behalf of the Trump Administration, has engaged in discussions with the Lao People’s Democratic Republic; and

Whereas, the State Department is calling on Laos to accept deported U.S. residents; and

Whereas, Wisconsin is home to over 61,287 Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese, Cambodian, and other ethnic minority groups from Laos, many of whom are refugees as a result of the American War in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, nearly 4,800 Hmong, Lao, and members of other ethnic minority groups from Laos, 8,400 Vietnamese, and 1,500 Cambodian individuals across the country have been served deportation orders; and
Whereas, many Hmong, Lao, and other ethnic minority groups from Laos fought alongside United States soldiers in the American War in Southeast Asia; and

Whereas, proposed deportation would tear apart families and communities across the state of Wisconsin; and

Whereas, Hmong, Lao, and other ethnic minority group refugees from Laos have long-established roots in Wisconsin, and many have no family ties in Laos, do not speak the language, and have never lived in Laos; and

Whereas, Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees have already been subject to deportation for years and have faced hardship and retaliation; and

Whereas, Hmong, Lao, and other ethnic minority group refugees from Laos ordered to be removed by the U.S. will face the danger of marginalization, violence, or death in Laos; and

Whereas, members of Hmong, Lao, and other ethnic minorities of Laos in the state of Wisconsin have picked up the torch in furthering the values and ideas that have forged the state; and

Whereas, Hmong, Lao, and other ethnic minorities of Laos communities across the state of Wisconsin have become successful in agriculture and farming, in small business and entrepreneurship, and in working hard to support their families and to make the community a better place to live; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin Legislature opposes efforts by the State Department and Trump Administration to allow for the deportation of Hmong and Lao U.S. residents to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic; and, be it further
Resolved, That the assembly chief clerk shall transmit a copy of this resolution to all members of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, and President Donald Trump.

(END)