

2 **RESOLUTION: Support the Hmong and Laotian Communities within Winnebago County**
3 **and Oppose Federal Deportations to Laos**

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6 **TO THE WINNEBAGO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

7 **WHEREAS**, Wisconsin is home to over 50,000 Hmong and Lao residents; and

8 **WHEREAS**, according to the 2010 Census, Winnebago County is home to over 2,000 Hmong and Lao
9 residents; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 1975 the Hmong were a highland ethnic group in Laos who were not well liked by the Lao
11 government due to racial differences, and by siding with the United States during the Vietnam War, the Lao
12 Communist regime made the Hmong their target of persecution; and

13 **WHEREAS**, the Hmong were forced to leave their homeland to save their lives; and

14 **WHEREAS**, after the war, the United States offered protection to its Hmong and Lao allies, allowing many
15 Hmong refugees to resettle in the United States; and

16 **WHEREAS**, before the Hmong began to resettle in the United States in 1975, there was only one Hmong
17 doctorate in the world; forty years later in 2015, in the United States alone, there were over 700 Hmong doctorates,
18 and those who received Master and Bachelor degrees were in the thousands; and

19 **WHEREAS**, for several decades, many Hmong and Lao refugees have made their homes in Wisconsin and
20 Winnebago County, raising families, working, starting businesses, and living here and going to school; and

21 **WHEREAS**, in 1984, the Hmong Service Center Inc. was established and has been providing services ever
22 since to the Hmong community within the Winnebago County area; and

23 **WHEREAS**, by 2010, there were over 25 non-profit Hmong organizations serving communities across the
24 State of Wisconsin; and

25 **WHEREAS**, today, approximately 50 percent of Hmong families in the United States become home owners,
26 and hundreds of small Hmong businesses have been growing in Wisconsin and various parts of the United States;
27 and

28 **WHEREAS**, nearly 4,800 Hmong and Lao individuals across the country have been served deportation
29 orders issued by the U.S. Federal government; and

30 **WHEREAS**, approximately 300 Hmong and Lao Wisconsin residents have been served deportation orders
31 by the U.S. Federal government, and of those 300 residents at least 250 have lived in the United States at least 10
32 years; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Hmong and Lao refugees have long-established roots in Wisconsin and many have no family
34 ties in Laos; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Hmong and Lao refugees face the danger of marginalization, violence, or death in Laos; and

36 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County asserts that all refugees and immigrants should be treated with dignity, care,
37 and respect; and

38 **WHEREAS**, current and past generations of refugees and immigrants have helped build Winnebago County
39 and make it a great community, bringing economic development, vibrancy, and cultural diversity; and

40 **WHEREAS**, Winnebago County reaffirms its goal as a welcoming county for immigrants, refugees, and
41 newcomers from all over the world.

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NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it hereby opposes the deportation and repatriation of Hmong and Lao residents to Laos, as well as deportation of Hmong and Lao refugees throughout the United States which have been issued deportation and repatriation orders by the U.S. Federal Government.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Winnebago County Board of Supervisors that it directs the Winnebago County Clerk to forward a copy of this resolution to all local Legislators, Governor Tony Evers, the Wisconsin League of Municipalities, and local US Representatives and US Senators.

Respectfully submitted by:

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Committee Vote: **11-1**

Vote Required for Passage: **Majority of Those Present**

Approved by the Winnebago County Executive this ____ day of _____, 2020.

Mark L Harris
Winnebago County Executive