



**RESOLUTION #** 64-3/20

**TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE LA CROSSE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**ITEM #** 3-8

**BOARD ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 23  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 6  
Vote Req: 0  
Other Action: 0

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ACTION**

Adopted:   
For: 7  
Against: 0  
Abstain: 0  
Abs/Excd: 2

**RE: SUPPORTING OUR SOUTHEAST ASIAN COMMUNITY AND OPPOSING FEDERAL DEPORTATION OF HMONG AND LAO RESIDENTS TO LAOS**

**WHEREAS**, Wisconsin is home to over 61,287 Hmong, Lao, Vietnamese, Cambodian and other ethnic minority residents from Laos; and

**WHEREAS**, La Crosse County is home to over 4,000 Hmong and Laos residents according to a 2015 UW-Extension report entitled Hmong in Wisconsin: A Statistical Overview; and

**WHEREAS**, many Hmong, Lao and other ethnic minority soldiers from Laos fought alongside United States soldiers in the American War in Southeast Asia; and

**WHEREAS**, our Hmong, Lao and other ethnic allies subsequently faced retaliation in Laos for their cooperation with the United States after the end of the American War in Southeast Asia; and

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

**WHEREAS**, Hmong, Lao and other ethnic minority refugees have made their homes in Wisconsin and La Crosse, raising families, working, starting businesses, living, and going to school here for several decades, hereby contributing to the La Crosse County economy, culture, vibrancy of public life; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly 4,800 Hmong and Lao, 8,400 Vietnamese, and 1,500 Cambodian individuals across the country have been served deportation orders issued by the U.S. Federal government; and

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

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

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

**WHEREAS**, the County of La Crosse asserts that all refugees and immigrants should be treated with dignity, care, and respect; and

**RE: SUPPORTING OUR SOUTHEAST ASIAN COMMUNITY AND OPPOSING FEDERAL DEPORTATION OF HMONG AND LAO RESIDENTS TO LAOS**

**WHEREAS**, current and past generations of refugees and immigrants have helped build La Crosse County and make it the great county that it is, bringing economic development, vibrancy and cultural diversity; and

**WHEREAS**, the County of La Crosse affirms its goal to be a welcoming community for immigrants, refugees and newcomers from all over the world.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the County Board of the County of La Crosse strongly opposes the deportation and repatriation of Hmong, Lao and other ethnic minority residents of La Crosse County to Laos, as well as the deportation orders of Hmong, Lao and other ethnic minority refugees throughout the United States which have been issued by the U.S. Federal government, and directs the County Clerk to send copies of this resolution to local State legislators, Governor Evers, the Wisconsin Counties Association and our local U.S. representatives and senators and to the Secretary of the United States Department of Homeland Security.

**FISCAL NOTE:** No fiscal impact.

Date: MARCH 11 2020  
[Signature]  
COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date: March 11, 2020  
[Signature]  
RECORDING CLERK

	Reviewed Only	Recommended	Not Recommended
Co. Admin.	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
Fin. Director	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
Corp. Counsel	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____
Board Chair	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____	_____

Requested By: Monica Kruse and Tara Johnson  
Date Requested: February 27, 2020  
Drafted By: Corporation Counsel

Adopted by the La Crosse County Board this 19 Day of March, 2020

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
COUNTY OF LA CROSSE  
I, Ginny Dankmeyer, County Clerk of La Crosse County do hereby certify that this document is a true and correct copy of the original resolution required by law to be in my custody and which the County Board of Supervisors of La Crosse County adopted at a meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March 2020.

[Signature]  
Ginny Dankmeyer, La Crosse County Clerk