

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 164

Reps. Xiong, Steckloff, Foreman, Young, MacDonell, Breen, Puri, McFall, T. Carter, Longjohn, Dievendorf, Fitzgerald, Morgan, Brixie, Andrews, B. Carter, Glanville, Snyder, Liberati, Herzberg, Miller, Paiz, Wilson, Edwards, Tsernoglou, Price, Rheingans, Conlin, Scott, Wegela, Pohutsky, Myers-Phillips, Byrnes, Skaggs, Koleszar, Weiss, Grant, Rogers, O'Neal, Hope, Martus and Wooden offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution calling for transparency, due process, and  
2 further case-by-case review in the immigration cases of Hmong and  
3 Laotian refugees in Michigan.

4           Whereas, In July 2025, U.S. Immigration and Customs  
5 Enforcement (ICE) detained approximately 16 Hmong and Laotian  
6 refugees in Michigan. Most of these individuals were summoned to  
7 what they believed were routine immigration check-ins, only to be  
8 unexpectedly taken into custody upon arrival. Since these

1 individuals were taken into custody, there have been urgent appeals  
2 from their family and community for their release; and

3       Whereas, ICE transferred several of these detainees from  
4 Michigan to facilities in Texas and Louisiana, and ultimately  
5 deported them to Laos in mid-August. The treatment of these  
6 individuals, particularly their rapid movement across several  
7 sites, has raised serious due process and oversight concerns. When  
8 detainees are quickly moved from one site to another, they may not  
9 have sufficient time to obtain legal counsel and raise potential  
10 defenses to detention and deportation before they are removed from  
11 the country. Furthermore, the speed with which some of these cases  
12 are processed can make it difficult to conduct effective oversight  
13 of individual cases; and

14       Whereas, The manner in which these detentions and deportations  
15 were carried out has deeply terrified the Hmong and Laotian  
16 communities in Michigan, who are longtime residents and  
17 contributors to our state, the descendants of U.S. allies in the  
18 Vietnam War. The situation has raised questions about justice and  
19 the appropriate treatment of immigrants and refugees; and

20       Whereas, The United States has no memorandum of understanding  
21 or repatriation agreement with Laos under which the Laotian  
22 Government has agreed to accept immigrants deported from the United  
23 States. This means that the United States government needs to  
24 obtain travel documents for individuals who are to be deported to  
25 Laos. Given that it must take time to obtain these travel  
26 documents, the federal government could provide advance notice to  
27 individuals it intends to deport, rather than detaining them with  
28 no warning; and

29       Whereas, Several Michigan state legislators, community

1 leaders, and advocacy organizations have publicly demanded greater  
2 transparency, oversight, and humane treatment for those detained.  
3 We must ensure that our values of fairness, compassion, and respect  
4 for human dignity are upheld; now, therefore, be it

5       Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we demand  
6 transparency from federal authorities regarding the legal basis,  
7 procedural handling, and current conditions of the Hmong and  
8 Laotian individuals detained and deported by U.S. Immigration and  
9 Customs Enforcement, including confirmation of whether due process,  
10 such as proper warrants and notice, was respected; and be it  
11 further

12       Resolved, That we urge U.S. Immigration and Customs  
13 Enforcement and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to provide  
14 immediate access to legal counsel, timely family notification, and  
15 humane treatment for detainees, including access to medical care  
16 and communication with loved ones; and be it further

17       Resolved, That we encourage federal authorities to allow  
18 sufficient time for further case-by-case review of each  
19 individual's circumstances in immigration cases, especially for  
20 individuals with deep Michigan roots, community ties, or  
21 humanitarian histories, to assess relief options or alternatives to  
22 detention; and be it further

23       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
24 United States Secretary of Homeland Security and the members of the  
25 Michigan congressional delegation.