The 1945 Fellowship — Hard Questions, Straight Answers

Every retained genius is a job-creator on our team and one fewer weapon for our rivals. The numbers back it up.

1. "We already have a process for this. Why is this even needed?"

Because the current "process" is designed to expel talent by default. A recent graduate gets a 90-day clock, an H-1B lottery with roughly one-in-four odds, and — for some countries — green-card backlogs measured in decades. The merit-based routes that actually reward the exceptional (O-1, EB-1A, and the National Interest Waiver) exist, but they are complex, costly, and require an evidentiary record almost no individual can assemble alone against the clock. We don't replace the process — **we make its merit-based lanes actually work, fast, for the people who most deserve them.** Today the default outcome is that America loses them. We change the default.

2. "This is a loophole masked in patriotism. Where are the hard numbers?"

It's the opposite of a loophole — it uses the exact categories Congress created for extraordinary, national-interest talent. And the numbers are not close:

- 59% of America's billion-dollar startups have an immigrant founder. Those 455 companies are worth a combined $5.0 trillion and average 833 U.S. jobs each. 79% have an immigrant as a founder or in a top leadership role. (NFAP, 2026)
- Immigrant inventors produce ~23–25% of all U.S. patents — and 25% of the economic value created by patents — while making up only ~16% of inventors.
- A 10% rise in H-1B admissions is associated with 3% higher patenting; a 1-point rise in the foreign STEM share raised the wage growth of native college graduates by 7–8 points.
- Most of the top-tier AI researchers working at U.S. institutions trained abroad — the exact workforce that decides who wins the AI race. (MacroPolo)

Provably helps America: we report it per cohort — green cards secured, jobs created, patents filed, and companies founded by our Fellows. Measurable national ROI, not vibes.

3. "Sounds like a scam to take U.S. jobs — cheap labor until the bots take over."

This is the precise inverse of cheap labor. O-1 and EB-1 are, by law, "extraordinary ability" — the top of a field, who must be paid prevailing wage or above and typically command far more. Cheap-labor schemes rely on high-volume, replaceable H-1B body shops; **we target the top 0.1% and make them permanent Americans via a green card — not temporary workers an employer can underpay or hold hostage.** A permanent resident answers to no single boss; that's the point. And the data is unambiguous: high-skilled immigrants create jobs (833 per company) and raise native wages rather than displace workers.

4. "How could this possibly make money? Who would pay for it?"

Three revenue lines fund the mission-driven core:

1) Enterprise concierge. Companies already overpay law firms to badly manage the visas of talent they're desperate to keep. We do it better, as a service, for a fee. A large, hair-on-fire market.

2) Success-based placement. We align Fellows with the labs, companies, and founders building the American future, and earn placement fees when we do.

3) Alumni give-back. Fellows who become founders and high earners pledge a share back — a compounding endowment that grows every time the flywheel mints another job-creator.

On top of that, philanthropists and national-competitiveness funders back the fellowship for measurable ROI. The math is lopsided: supporting one Fellow costs a fraction of the expected value of a single retained founder — who, on average,

creates 833 jobs and can build a billion-dollar company.

5. "Forget it — ship them all back to where they came from."

Then you're choosing to ship America's victories straight to its enemies. The person you deport doesn't stop being brilliant — they just build the next breakthrough in Beijing or Bangalore and aim it back at us. **We didn't win the Space Race, the Cold War, or the atomic age by exporting genius — we won by attracting it and keeping it.** This isn't about being nice to foreigners. It's about never handing a weapon to a rival. A genius on our team beats a genius on theirs. Keeping the best isn't weakness — it's how America stays first.

6. "Those were special wartime programs. You can't compare peacetime immigration to fighting Hitler."

Two answers. First, we're not at peace: we're funding proxy wars on multiple fronts, racing an authoritarian rival for the technologies that decide the next century, and divided enough at home that it doesn't feel stable or safe. The contest is wartime-scale, and it will be won on the same currency as 1945 — talent. Second, the premise is wrong even in calm years. **The playbook didn't stop when the war did.** The Institute for Advanced Study drew the world's best minds through the 1930s and long after; Vannevar Bush's 1945 "Endless Frontier" built a peacetime engine — the National Science Foundation and the modern research university — that kept America dominant for half a century. We didn't win because there was a war. We won because we gathered the best people on earth and kept them.
