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C E N T E R

Hello all,

Support for a pilot private refugee sponsorship program is continuing to gain momentum. In a *Bloomberg* [piece](#)—syndicated in the *Chicago Tribune*, among others—the Niskanen Center’s Matthew La Corte offers support for a pilot program as a way of empowering Americans to increase resettlement efforts. *Foreign Policy* also extended support for a private sponsorship program modeled after the successful Canadian sponsorship program, [citing](#) the Niskanen Center’s early efforts to popularize the policy idea.

Matthew also wrote the afterword to an important new white [paper](#) published last week by Human Rights First and the International Refugee Assistance Project at the Urban Justice Center and Human Rights First. It is the latest paper to outline key principles that should guide the development of a private refugee sponsorship program in the United States. We’re excited about the progress being made, and will continue to urge policymakers to launch a pilot program [before](#) the end of the current administration.

We are also happy to announce the addition of our newest adjunct fellow, immigration [attorney](#) Tahmina Watson, whose practice has a strong focus on immigrant entrepreneurs and startup companies in Seattle, Washington. Tahmina is a frequent speaker, author, and [blogger](#) on immigration law, and is often published in *Forbes*, *Huffington Post*, *CNN*, *Bloomberg*, *The Seattle Times*, and in American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) resources.

Tahmina also hosts the “Immigration with Tahmina” [talk show](#) on Seattle’s Desi 1250 am, and is the [author](#) of “The Startup Visa: Key to Job Growth & Economic Prosperity in America.”

Most recently, Tahmina formed a coalition of leaders in the technology and entrepreneurship fields in Seattle—including venture capitalists, angel investors, startup accelerator investors/mentors, and entrepreneurs—to submit comments on the proposed

[International Entrepreneur Rule](#), which she detailed in an [article](#) in the *Globalist*. We are excited to work with Tahmina, who advised the Niskanen Center's [comments](#) on the same rule, to increase opportunities for foreign entrepreneurship in America.

As always, your comments and suggestions are welcome.

Best,
Kristie

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