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# KEYNOTE

## A POLICYMAKER'S VIEW

### The Importance of Evidence Based Policy

Evidence-Informed Policy: Giving evidence a seat at the table in the policymaking process

- **Timing:** If evidence isn't presented in a timely manner, it won't be influential in the policymaking process
- **Trustworthiness:** Evidence needs to be presented by individuals that policymakers trust
- **Compelling:** The evidence needs to be about something policymakers care about (or can be made to care about)
- **Clarity:** The evidence should have a clear direction that it is pointing in
- **Luck:** These things coming together can be about luck – though luck favors the prepared

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## The Value of Evidence

- 1. Families First:** Families First began with the Title IV-E waivers that allowed a number of states to experiment on what works best or doesn't work
  - Compelling
  - Clarity
  - Trustworthy
  - Timing
  - Luck
  
- 2. Criminal Justice Reform:** State actors began to experiment on ways they could reduce recidivism while also reducing incarceration. Their leadership (and experience) led policymakers to pass the First Step Act.
  - Compelling
  - Clarity
  - Trustworthy
  - Timing
  - Luck

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### Going Forward: The Roll of Evidence in the Future and Making Research Relevant

1. Look past news headlines – evidence for or against a proposition is a reliable indicator for legislative action in non-high profile issues
2. Identify federal nexus between research and local action and try to identify expired reauthorizations
3. Evidence Act's Role in Promoting Evidence