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
A POLICYMAKER’S VIEW

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
A POLICYMAKER’S VIEW

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