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Katherine Crowley* (katherine.d.crowley@gmail.com). *Mathematics and policy: strategies for effective advocacy.*

One day in the United States Senate, a team of political staffers took a spontaneous break from writing legislation to request combinatorial proofs on demand of their favorite mathematical identities from their mathematician colleague (me). As the barrage of job demands implored us to disperse moments later, our legislative director chided me for sneaking in the final answer by induction. What is the level of understanding of mathematics among those who craft our national policies? What impact does a mathematician have in a seat at the table of debate over our country's most pressing challenges? How can mathematicians inform policy, and how can policy support mathematics? I will discuss the elements of effective advocacy for our discipline. (Received May 08, 2015)