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Carla D Cotwright-Williams* (carla.cotwright@gmail.com), Baltimore, MD. *Mathematics in Public Service.*

A brief exploration of the use of mathematics to shape the policies which protect and support the lives of citizens and residents across the U.S. Several real world examples and their potential policy implications will be shown. This overview will be followed by a discussion on ways mathematicians and scientists can influence policy makers (e.g. U.S. Congress, federal, state and local officials) to improve (or change) the policies which shape society. (Received September 25, 2017)