



# Working on the Virtual Hill

## The National Mood and a New Meaning of Interdisciplinary Physics

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Kyle Blasinsky, Mather Public Policy Intern

Rep. Bill Foster's Office – U.S. House of Representatives, IL-11

# Who, Where, Why



**Kyle Blasinsky (Me)**  
Intern



**Rep. Bill Foster**  
Congressman for Illinois' 11<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Ph.D. Physicist & Businessman



**John Mather**  
Ph.D. Physicist &  
Nobel Prize Winner



**The United States House  
of Representatives**

# It's all about the numbers...

**1**



Post Offices  
Named

**4**



Letters of  
Congratulations

**14**



Telebriefings  
Memo'd

**31**



Bills Reviewed  
and Memo'd

# What does that mean?

**A majority of the job:**

1. Cosponsor Memos
2. Briefing Memos



# What does that mean?



**A majority of the job:**

**1. Cosponsor Memos**

2. Briefing Memos

Interest group or a colleague wants Rep. Foster to cosponsor a particular bill.

## *The Process*



# What does that mean?



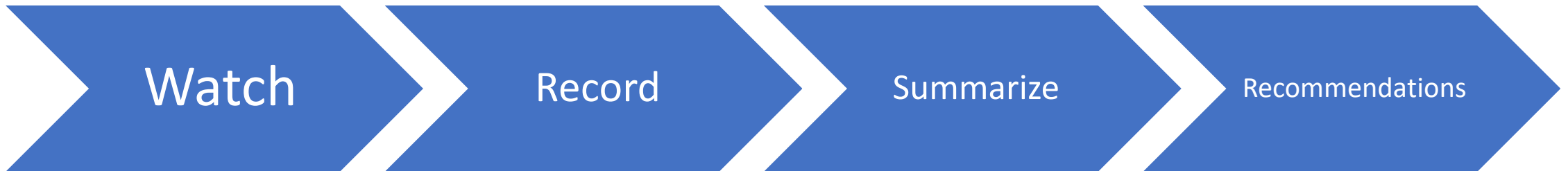
**A majority of the job:**

1. Cosponsor Memos

**2. Briefing Memos**

Interest group wants to inform  
(i.e., lobby) policymakers on an issue.

## *The Process*



# Personal favorites

(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION **H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize appropriations for offsetting the costs related to reductions in research productivity resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

\_\_\_\_\_

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. DeGETTE introduced the following bill, which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To authorize appropriations for offsetting the costs related to reductions in research productivity resulting from the coronavirus pandemic.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

2

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**


4 This Act may be cited as the “Research Investment to Spark the Economy Act” or the “RISE Act”.

5

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

## H.R. 7308 - RISE Act

Topic	Understanding the Pharmaceutical Supply Chain	
Description	<p>In recent years, some policymakers have suggested the United States is too dependent on imports of certain products from countries like China. With the outbreak of COVID-19, the calls to reshore the supply chain of a number of products, including pharmaceuticals and other medical equipment, have intensified.</p> <p>Policymakers hoping to usher in a new era of industrial policy should be cautious. Reshoring the entire pharmaceutical supply chain would increase costs for consumers, dampen innovation and hurt the competitiveness of a global industry.</p> <p>In conjunction with the release of a new R Street white paper exploring all of the major issues surrounding the pharmaceutical supply chain, we invite you to a webinar that will dispel a number of myths and offer positive, concrete ideas that are available to policymakers.</p>	
	FEATURING	
	Clark Packard (Moderator) Resident Fellow and Trade Policy Counsel, R Street Institute	
	Bill Watson Associate Fellow, R Street Institute	
	Jacqueline Varas Director of Immigration and Trade Policy, American Action Forum	

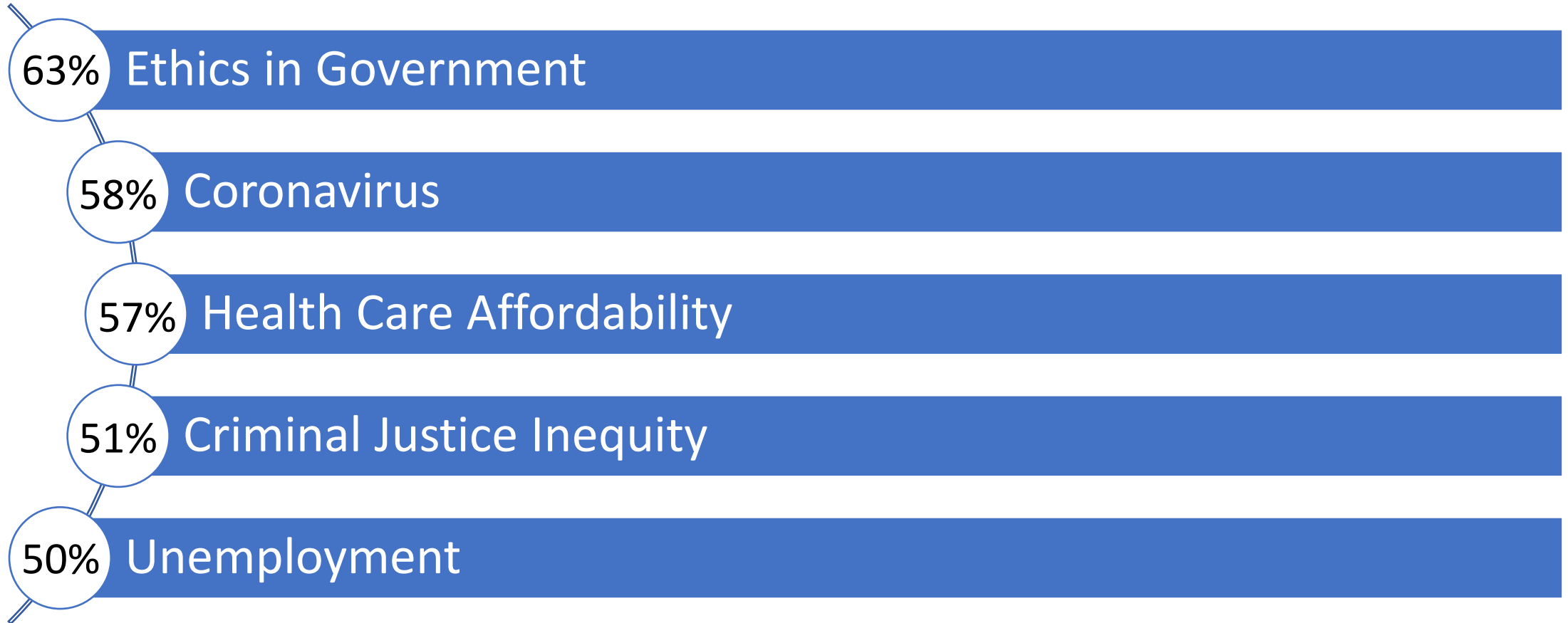
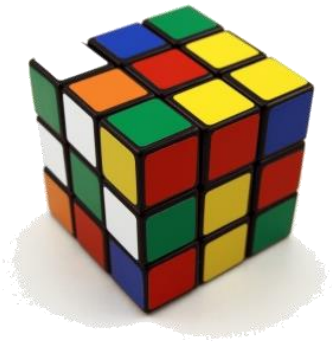
## Understanding the Global Pharmaceutical Supply Chain

Is it meaningful work though?

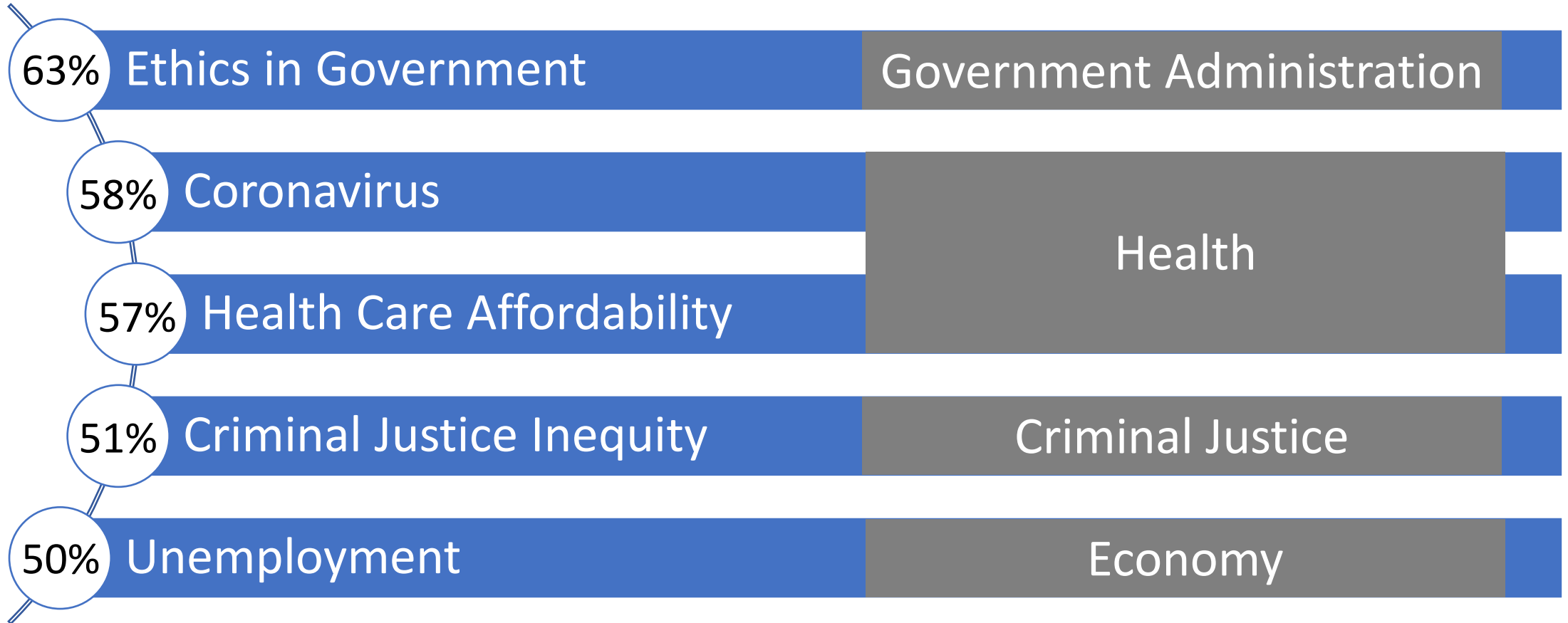
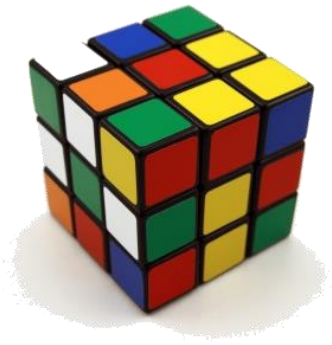




# America's really big problems



# America's really big problems



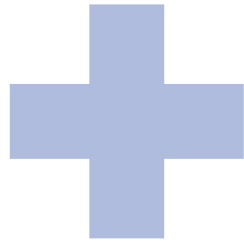
# Where my work falls...



Percentage of bills I reviewed that fall into the respective category.

# Yes, fun and meaningful work!

People care about the **economy**, individual and community **health**, the **justice** system, and the **government** itself.



My work focused primarily on **health care**, **government administration** and oversight, **criminal justice**, and the **economy**.

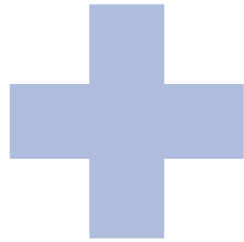


Yes, my work **aligned** with the **priorities** of the American **people**.



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**Yes**, my work **aligned** with the **priorities** of the American **people**.

Of the 31 bills I reviewed, only one became law.  
*What's the deal?*

# Yes, fun and meaningful work!



Of the 31 bills I reviewed, only one became law.

*What's the deal?*

(1) Partisanship – (2) Messaging – (3) Volume



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**Huge thank you to all those who made this summer possible, meaningful, educational, and fun.**

The Society of Physics Students: Kayla Stephens, Mikayla Cleaver, & Brad Conrad; American Institute of Physics; Dr. John Mather; Rep. Bill Foster and the IL-11 Team: Hector Arias, Scott Shewcraft, Samantha Warren, Merit Schumaker, Elise Sugarman, Diem-Mi Lu, Maggie Schmidt, Greg Cybulski, & Grecia Benitez; and of course, all my fellow SPS interns.