More concerningly, his suggestion that we can protect our vulnerable population has zero supporting evidence. Consider that age is the single biggest risk factor for COVID mortality. The US has approximately 54 million citizens over the age of 65 (see https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/file-layouts/2010-2019/nc-est2019-agesex-res.csv). There are about 2 million nursing home beds in the US (see <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/nursing-home-care.htm>). Dr. Atlas argued in the Hill that nursing homes are well equipped to protect vulnerable people. Um, ok, what about the other 52 million Americans at risk? Here he says “it is a commonsense, achievable goal to target isolation policy to that group, including strictly monitoring those who interact with them.”

He also argues for herd immunity: just let everyone get infected and we will be done with this. We now know that immunity to coronaviruses is not durable, ,but that was not known at the time he wrote his article for The Hill. It was known that durable immunity is unusual, which is why many vaccinations need to be repeated, and why smallpox is the only infectious disease we have been able to eliminate (immunity is lifelong). Advocating for herd immunity at the cost of hundreds of thousands of lives, *in the absence of evidence* of durable immunity seems appallingly reckless.