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SYMPOSIUM ON EMTALA: THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AND ACTIVE LABOR ACT -- Introduction

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SYMPOSIUM

EMATALA: THE EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT AND ACTIVE LABOR ACT

INTRODUCTION

THIS ISSUE OF *HEALTH MATRIX* publishes three papers that evolved from a workshop, held in April of 1997, organized by the Law-Medicine Center at Case Western Reserve University School of Law. The workshop examined legal and policy issues raised by the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act, or EMTALA. The occasion for the workshop was the tenth anniversary of the enactment of this federal law, which limits the practice of transferring emergency patients, particularly those without health insurance, to other hospital emergency rooms, a practice known as “patient dumping.”

We are grateful to all of those who attended the workshop, and to Odette Valabregue Wurzbarger and the William E. Lower Fund of the Academy of Medicine of Cleveland, who gave us their generous financial support.

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