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Letter from the Editors

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Dear Reader:

On behalf of the Editorial Board and staff, we proudly present Volume 11, Issue 1 of the *Health Law & Policy Brief* (HLPB). HLPB is an online publication run by law students at American University Washington College of Law (WCL). Since its formation in 2007, HLPB has published articles on a wide array of cutting-edge topics in the areas of health law, disability law, and food and drug law. Such topics include international and domestic issues of health care compliance, fraud and abuse enforcement, health insurance payment and reimbursement issues, intellectual property issues, international human rights issues, FDA initiatives and policies, and a host of other matters. HLPB also maintains a blog on current health law issues which can be found on our website at www.healthlawpolicy.org. Furthermore, each year, HLPB organizes an original symposium on an emerging health law topic. At this year's symposium in November 2016, distinguished speakers and moderators discussed the ethical concerns of defendants with mental disabilities receiving the death penalty.

This issue features two timely articles. Our first author, Rebecca Gittelson, analyzes the feasibility, benefits, and challenges of the federal Physician Compare scorecard website for individual physicians. Rebecca argues that Physician Compare may be able to fulfill its worthy goals of improving patients' engagement in their own healthcare choices and incentivizing physicians to provide better quality care, but not before overcoming various challenges.

Our second author, Monica K. Houston, discusses the seriousness of Hepatitis C and analyzes whether or not the Department of Corrections should be constitutionally required to treat all inmates currently diagnosed with Hepatitis C with the latest developed drugs. She concludes that absent a diagnosis of an advanced stage of Hepatitis C, they should not be mandated to provide this costly treatment to inmates.

Both articles are timely and important to current health law and policy. We would like to thank our authors for their hard work and cooperation.

We would also like to thank HLPB's articles editors and staff members who worked diligently on these articles, the blog, and our programming throughout the year. They are greatly appreciated and should be proud of their work.

For questions or information about the *Health Law & Policy Brief*, or for questions on how to subscribe to our electronic publication, please visit our website at www.healthlawpolicy.org.

Sincerely,
Payal and Mamie

Payal Mehta Mamie Aoughsten
Editor-in-Chief *Executive Editor*