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INTRODUCTION

Increasing jury awards and rising insurance premiums have raised widespread questions about the current operation of products liability law. The discussion has taken many forms, including insurance company ads intended to reverse the perceived deep pocket sympathies of the public, and state and federal legislative studies of the existence, dimensions and causes of the problem. More important, development of products liability law, which once occurred solely under the auspices of the courts, has now become a concern of the federal and state legislatures.

Despite the extensive public discussion and concern about products liability, any deliberate change in the operation of products liability principles should be the result of carefully considered legal judgments. The purpose of this symposium is to present a scholarly discussion of both the nature of the products liability crisis and possibilities for its statutory solution.

