

## **Women Physician Leadership Academy, Saturday, November 2, 2024**

Title: Navigating Pathways to Advance Health Policy

Presenters: Donna D'Alessio, MD and Kayla Bogdanowicz, MPA

### Discussion Outline:

- Policy Goal & Outcome
  - Advance legislation to enhance insurance coverage for supplemental breast cancer screening
  - Legislative Passage of S2465-C, Persaud/A1696-C, Hunter and enactment by Governor Hochul
- Policy Background
  - New York State breast density notification requirements in effect since 2013 with support from groups like [densebreast-info.org](https://densebreast-info.org)
  - 2023 FDA mandate federal law requiring breast density notification (dense and non-dense) went into effect September 2024
  - Despite laws mandating notification, insurance coverage not uniform and there is cost sharing. Patients with insurance coverage denials for supplemental breast imaging despite being informed of the need for such studies.
- Policy Opportunity
  - Timing: Election year; nearly seven years since last breast cancer screening coverage change took effect; recent uptick in supplemental screening denials; new FDA breast density notification mandate set to take effect; recent enactment of policy to eliminate cost sharing for supplemental screening and diagnostic imaging in other states (ie Maryland)
  - Legislative Interest: Breast cancer screening access, affordability, and equity is an important priority for the NYS legislature and key lawmakers (Senator Roxanne Persaud and Assemblymember Pam Hunter)
- Effective Advocacy
  - Meetings with legislators and staff on key committees (Insurance, Ways & Means, Finance), NYS DOH Commissioner McDonald, CMS representatives, Executive Chamber staff
  - Identifying other supportive stakeholders including MSSNY, cancer treatment centers, and public health/health equity organizations to coordinate advocacy
  - Grassroots advocacy by the New York State Radiological Society
  - Leveraging social media and digital advocacy channels