



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

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## October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. While great strides have been made in the fight against this deadly disease, there is still a long way to go: over 40,000 women (and 400 men) die annually of breast cancer.

Mammograms remain an effective tool in the diagnosis of breast cancer. Now, thanks to a law enacted last year by the State Senate and Governor Cuomo, patients must be notified in writing if an initial screening indicates that they have dense breast tissue. The law requires that women be provided with an explanation of how dense breast tissue can present additional challenges for cancer detection efforts, followed by a discussion about the possible need for additional screenings.

A second law also enacted last year requires health insurers to cover breast reconstruction surgery after a partial mastectomy.

If you, or someone you know, has a concern about breast cancer, the Adelphi NY Statewide Breast Cancer Hotline & Support Program is a wonderful service to help find answers.

For the most current and useful information and resources, call their toll-free number at 1-800-877-8077.

For answers to the most frequently asked questions about breast cancer, please visit <http://www.adelphi.edu/nysbreastcancer/faq.html>