



# Radiological Society of New Jersey

A Chapter of the American College of Radiology

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May 5, 2016

Letter to the Editor

A research letter published online dated April 26, 2016 in the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) titled, “Content, Readability, and Understandability of Dense Breast Notifications by State” criticizes the mandated patient notification language in the New Jersey Breast Density Legislation. However, the research letter criticizes what appears to be the first draft of the New Jersey legislation. It is concerning that the credibility of the mandate has been jeopardized based upon this error. This research letter has now been cited by numerous press reports across the country.

As with most newly adopted laws there will be criticism amongst the praise. The NJ breast density legislation was a collaborative effort between numerous stakeholders including legislators, medical professional organizations and advocacy groups. The goal was to promote education and women’s health. Since the legislation was enacted, many patients and physicians have benefited from the increased awareness of the choices that people have for breast cancer screening. Over the past year the governor-appointed Breast Density Work Group has evaluated the effects of this legislation in New Jersey. This and other medical professional organizations continue to work with the patients, healthcare professionals and legislators to assure that the people of New Jersey are receiving the information they need to make an informed decision concerning breast cancer screening.

This legislation was enacted by concerned advocates, healthcare professionals and politicians to promote breast health and education in New Jersey. There can always be room for improvement. However, because it was based on incorrect facts, it is regrettable that this research letter and the subsequent press reports that it has generated may have undermined these goals.

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