In our continued advocacy efforts to have legislation introduced and passed addressing the wearing of headgear by girls lacrosse players to help mitigate head injuries, concussions, and significant brain injuries caused by stick and ball hits to the head, Barbara Ellman and Helena Mirza, Co-Presidents and Cheryl Stier, Alliance Health Promotions Chair and nominated Co-President met with MSSNY Sr. Vice President on February 13, to discuss with him the best way to proceed, including asking him to help suggest a sponsor and drafting a bill to present to the sponsor.

A resolution was presented to the MSSNY HOD several years ago by Dr. Kennedy, on behalf of the Alliance, and was adopted as MSSNY Policy. It was then taken to the AMA HOD and adopted by them as well. As of now, only Florida mandates the wearing of helmets to protect girls playing lacrosse, although there have been many concussions among players that could have been avoided with the protective headgear. Players of boys’ lacrosse are mandated to wear protective headgear and padding, but it was initially felt that girls don’t play as roughly as boys. Over time, the girls’ sport has evolved into a much rougher sport, and there are helmets available now, but they are not being utilized because they are not mandated, and many parents are not even aware that they are available and/or recommended.

We will keep you updated as we make process on having a bill introduced in the New York State Legislature and look forward to your support of this effort.

Barbara Ellman
Alliance Co-President