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Melissa Assalone has over ten years of state government experience in Virginia and represents clients before the Virginia General Assembly, legislative and executive branch agencies and boards and commissions. Her practice includes education, health care, human services, procurement, technology, business issues, and election policy.

She joined Kemper Consulting from The 51 Group, where she served as Director of State Government Affairs. Before that, Melissa was Executive Director of the Virginia Food Industry Association. There she managed the association and served as its primary lobbyist in the Commonwealth. Melissa also brings senior Executive Branch experience. She served as Deputy Legislative Director to Governor Ralph Northam. Earlier in the Northam Administration, she was Policy Advisor to the Secretaries of Health and Human Resources, Administration, and Veterans and Defense Affairs.

Melissa holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree from Virginia Commonwealth University. She also earned a Certificate of Nonprofit Management from VCU and is a graduate of the Sorensen Institute's Political Leaders Program. She lives in Richmond, where she can often be found on a run or walking her dog, Tahoe.