

**Testimony of Adam Tripp, Adjunct Lecturer
Before the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York**

**Concerning Funding for Adjunct Health Insurance
In the CUNY Budget Request (Calendar Item 3.A.)**

21 November, 2011

My name is Adam Tripp, and I teach economics as an adjunct lecturer at Bronx Community College. I am deeply concerned by the fact that many of my colleagues are at risk of losing their health insurance.

Unfortunately, we live in a country that does not provide a universal social “safety net,” for those without healthcare. Instead, our health insurance is provided via employers. For adjuncts, losing the benefits of healthcare would be equivalent to taking a pay cut, and if this were not enough, it would be a pay cut for some of the lowest paid faculty at the City University of New York (CUNY).

In great contrast to this, when I worked as an adjunct at the State University of New York at New Paltz, I received the same healthcare as the full-time faculty, including dental and vision coverage.

Adjuncts teach thousands of courses each semester at CUNY; to ask us to teach without the security insurance provides is to undermine the work we do in the classroom.

What does it say about how you value the education that CUNY students receive, when so many of their professors are paid so poorly, and their benefits can be so easily put at risk? How do you expect to recruit and retain dedicated and passionate professionals when we are not compensated like professionals? Not funding healthcare for adjuncts does not just hurt the faculty who receives the benefits; it hurts students and the University.

CUNY has taken a critical first step in righting this wrong by announcing its commitment to achieving adjunct health insurance funding from the State. I call on you to hold firm to that commitment during the long budget process and communicate to the State that it is essential that adjunct health care funds be part of the final budget.