

**Testimony of Arlene Geiger, 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

I'd like to introduce myself as one of the 1,800 faces of adjunct faculty, whose health insurance will be terminated if the City University of New York (CUNY) fails to secure funding for adjunct health insurance. My name is Arlene Geiger. I am an economist and have taught continuously as an adjunct faculty member at John Jay College of Criminal Justice since 1992.

Over 20 years at John Jay, I have been and still am devoted to my discipline, and to teaching our diverse student body. I have devoted myself to developing and enriching the courses I teach, from Principles of Economics, International Economics, Economics of the Public Sector, to Macroeconomics, the most recent course I've developed with care to make it current and relevant for students. Over these 20 years, besides the teaching I've been paid for, I have volunteered my time and talents to John Jay College. I've volunteered for sophomore academic advisement and freshman orientation, organized several college wide programs on topical issues through the years, including a movie series. I have also conducted extra lab sessions prior to my final exams, and served as elected member of the Faculty Senate for five years. I, like my adjunct faculty colleagues, play an indispensable role in the life of our university.

The health insurance I currently receive from CUNY is essential to my well-being. At my age and on my adjunct salary, it will be impossible for me to afford health insurance coverage. If this health insurance ends in mid 2012, I will be without any health insurance. Without care, minor problems could become serious, and it is terrifying to think of what would happen if I should come down with any serious health problem. I would only have access to the emergency room at a neighborhood hospital, and I would have no way to pay for anything beyond that. Frankly, I am distraught over the prospect of how to go on at my age without any health insurance. I assure you that I am not alone in this state of mind. This is not the way that a great university such as CUNY should treat its faculty.

I was heartened to hear that at the last CUNY Board of Trustees meeting, board members responded to the calls of faculty, staff, and students in the street below by taking the first step toward achieving health insurance funding for adjuncts in the state's final budget. I urge you to hold firm to that commitment during the long budget process, and communicate to the state that it is essential that funding for adjunct health care be part of the final budget. In this request, I speak for myself and the other 1,800 adjunct faculty, whose lives depend on your success in this matter.