

**Testimony of Frank M. Kirkland, Associate Professor
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

Thank you for allowing me to address you briefly today.

As a former chairperson of a department, I was indeed thankful of the news that Chancellor Goldstein would seek funding for health insurance for part-time faculty at the City University of New York (CUNY) in CUNY's upcoming budget request to New York State. Many of my fellow chairpersons at Hunter found it disconcerting that part-time faculty members that their departments held dear were unable to gain access to health care or found their health care coverage tenuous at best. They knew that it was a fundamental obligation to which CUNY, as an employer, was non-committal at best. Chairpersons knew the dilemma in trying to hold onto part-timers for instructional work well done, but with health insurance whose bona fides were rather fragile and vulnerable. The Chancellor's announcement is an important first step toward removing the dilemma.

Now CUNY must ensure that the Chancellor's announcement turns into a successful two-step deed. Those steps are as follows: first, health care coverage for CUNY part-time faculty must become an item funded by New York State, and second, adjunct faculty must become eligible for permanent coverage under NYC's or NYS's health insurance plan. Getting the benefit funded will require your immediate attention and diligence. Securing permanent coverage for adjuncts after that funding is allocated ought not to be a matter for dalliance either. If it were, the quality of fairness and equity toward part-time faculty would be strained.

So it is time for CUNY to stand up not just for Chancellor Goldstein's announcement, but for doing the work needed to complete both steps toward securing permanent health coverage for part-time faculty.

Respectfully submitted,
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