

**Testimony of Marcia Newfield, 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 have taught in the BMCC English department for 23 years. I have a Master's degree in English Literature from NYU and an MS in early childhood education from the Bank Street College of Education. I am the author of six books for children, and numerous poems and articles.

Perhaps because I understand books for children, I believe in happy endings, and the possibilities of transformation.

I experience my remedial writing students at BMCC as living the fairy tale. Oh, I well know that their lives are not easy—they come to school after work, failures, and set-backs. Yet they are often the first in their families to attend college, and they have dared to dream of an enhanced future. Whether it's through anthropology, biology, or English classes, they become aware that the door to new futures are there for the opening and that the journey itself will yield rewards.

In order to be their teacher, their coach, and their mentor, I need to be healthy. Having health insurance, plus a rent-stabilized apartment has enabled me to continue doing what I consider meaningful work. To maintain and enhance this funding is in CUNY's best interest.

CUNY has shown itself to be resourceful in inventing new programs and getting around problems. Its support for bold initiatives goes a long way, as in its recent endorsement of the New York State Regents' decision to allow undocumented students to apply for financial aid.

Please exert the same energy in fighting for the allocation of funds for adjunct health insurance.

It's the right thing to do and a righteous display of your power.