

**Testimony of Noam Mor, 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 am thankful that the City University of New York (CUNY) has included adjunct health insurance funds in the upcoming budget request. I am thankful because without having had such insurance over the last five years, I could have died or ended up unable to walk. In the future, CUNY should not put its employees into a situation in which debilitating illness or death is a potential outcome.

I had cancer, and a tumor pushing against my spinal cord, and health insurance literally saved my life. Including funds for adjunct healthcare is a moral issue, as CUNY adjuncts, a large population that teaches more than half of CUNY classes, cannot afford to purchase their own health insurance. What CUNY does, making sure those who cannot get healthcare from other sources can get healthcare from CUNY, is exemplary and ethically necessary. And we know that uninsured care is not, in any sense of the word, acceptable health care.

At the very least, our healthcare benefits should be equivalent to that of our State University of New York brethren, thus honoring Chancellor Goldstein's pledge to find a way to fund adjunct healthcare in CUNY. This would insure that 1,800 adjuncts are not treated merely as a means to provide less-expensive instructional time, to be tossed aside without assistance when illness strikes.

I needed the healthcare and may need it again. I am sure others needed it and will need it again. This is not merely a question of dollars and cents. My recent experiences have taught me that I need health insurance and, if it should become unavailable in CUNY, I would seek opportunities outside CUNY that would insure me a reasonable wage and healthcare. I have been at CUNY for over ten years and love teaching here. Losing healthcare might very well force me to lose CUNY, and our students to lose other experienced teachers. I am sure others are in my position and I hope that CUNY shows that its adjuncts—our very survival and health—matter to them by sticking to its stated commitment to insure that adjunct health insurance is part of the final budget.

Thank you.