

**Testimony of Steven Edward Weisblatt, Continuing Education Teacher  
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 would like to thank the Board for having taken the step of including funds for adjunct health insurance in the state budget request for the coming year. This move will help ensure continuing coverage for my contingent colleagues.

Midway through the fall semester of 1997, while an adjunct at St. John's University, I was offered an instructor's position at CLIP at York College. When I approached my director at St John's and told her I had a moral dilemma, her response surprised me. She asked if I had found a position with health insurance. Upon my affirmative answer, she advised me to take the position. As to any difficulties with covering my class, she assured me it was her problem. She congratulated me and wished me well.

My work at CLIP brings me great satisfaction, as I meet former students in the Academic Core: who are now matriculating students, several on the Dean's List, a few in the Honors Program, some now holders of CUNY masters degrees employed as adjuncts, others as CLTs and office staff. My work at CUNY has provided me a forum in which I can exercise my belief and faith in justice as a member of the PSC-CUNY Executive Council.

Since then, I have counted myself fortunate as one of the few CUNY contingent faculty on the City Health Plan. It is a matter of justice that adjuncts be included in this plan. I urge the Board to use its influence to the fullest to assure that your budget request provides more than a band aid approach to solving the problem facing the Welfare Fund today. The fund must be relieved of the twin burdens of increasing health cost premiums and escalating numbers of insurance eligible adjuncts.

I offer the Board my sincerest gratitude for considering my testimony.