

**Testimony of Susan Horowitz, Assistant Adjunct 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**

I am Susan Horowitz, and I would like to add my testimony to the voices speaking for health care for adjuncts. I have been an adjunct at Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) for over 25 years. Working as an adjunct is my primary source of income – usually my only source of income. The adjunct health plan is also my only source of health insurance. Without this health insurance plan, it would be impossible for me to continue working as an adjunct. I have helped hundreds of students meet the degree requirements at BMCC. I have taught Intensive Writing – the remedial classes that prepare students for college placement and English Writing and Composition. I have also taught Public Speaking. I have written many reference letters, and helped many students win scholarships and admission to senior colleges and special programs.

Like many other adjuncts, I know that my work is essential, and of tremendous value in the lives of my students and to the functioning of City University of New York (CUNY). CUNY relies on low-paid adjuncts like me to provide relatively low-cost education to its students.

Without health care, I, like many other adjuncts, would be forced to end my service to our students and to CUNY. My health would suffer, and I would very likely become disabled; with no health care after many years of service. This is not simply a personal issue. Adjunct health is an issue that affects our morality as an institution of higher learning.

Offering health care to adjuncts is the only humane choice. When people do not have health insurance, they often delay getting medical treatment. By the time they do see a doctor, their health problem, which may have been minor in the beginning, is now a major medical crisis. The person who is ill must now endure real suffering and disability.

The institution that employs the adjunct also loses a capable worker. The health costs, which may have been minor in the beginning, are now staggering – costly to the institution and to society. Transferring eligible adjuncts onto the appropriate state or city health plan is the proactive, wise choice – to prevent much greater future costs. I would like to acknowledge that CUNY has asked for funding to support adjunct health insurance in their state budget request. I would now like to urge them to make that funding a reality.

Funding adjunct health insurance is both the humane and sane choice.