

**Testimony of Susan Kang, Assistant 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**

My name is Susan Kang. I am an assistant professor at John Jay College. In our department, many classes—not just introductory courses—are taught by dedicated and qualified adjuncts.

I've also had the privilege of forming friendships with adjuncts in our department and several other departments. These adjuncts are trusted colleagues who contribute to the education of our students, filling in many needed gaps in our teaching schedule. While some of our part-time faculty members are able to gain health insurance through their partners, others rely on the insurance provided through the Professional Staff Congress - City University of New York (PSC-CUNY) Welfare Fund. In fact, I've been told in conversations that this benefit, in addition to the rewarding experiences of working with our students, makes our part-time colleagues willing to come back semester after semester, despite the low pay and less-than-ideal working conditions. PSC is a union for all faculty members, and providing benefits for our part-time colleagues is a responsibility that CUNY must honor.

As our part-time colleagues teach essential classes, mentor students, and make essential contributions to our colleges, health care is, at minimum, a necessary component of their compensation. I am pleased to hear that CUNY has requested additional funds from the state in order to continue to fund adjunct health care. I urge CUNY administration to take all necessary steps to ensure adjunct health care for the future.