

**Testimony of Susan Meswick, Adjunct 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 Meswick. I am an adjunct assistant professor in the Department of Anthropology at Queens College. For 11 ½ years, me and my family's health insurance was covered by my husband's employer, until he lost his job and we found our family no longer covered by his insurance from his employer. I pay an additional \$1,300 per month for the family coverage through the PSC-CUNY Welfare Fund. We have been paying a supplement for family coverage since September 2011. Please don't leave us without insurance.

I would like to thank you for including the funds for adjunct insurance in the state budget request for the coming fiscal year. I urge you to make sure that the request fully meets the cost of transferring eligible adjuncts into the appropriate state or city health plan.

Adjuncts teach more than half of CUNY courses; health insurance for adjuncts should be available on the same basis as health insurance for full time instructors. That is what happens at SUNY; it should happen at CUNY.

Adjunct health insurance is crucial to the academic and moral stature of CUNY, where thousands of students are taught each semester by adjunct labor. To not provide health insurance will undermine the nature of adjunct contributions.

I have chosen to work at CUNY to be able to contribute to students at CUNY, who may be the first in their family to attend college. This was my situation as a CUNY student in the 1970's. My father had not graduated from High School. I was afforded the opportunity to complete a bachelor and master's degree in Anthropology at CUNY, and later a Ph.D. and Master of Public Health degree.

Please hold steadfast the commitment to fund adjunct health care as part of the long and arduous process of budget negotiations, and communicate to lawmakers that funding for adjunct health insurance is an essential part of the final budget. As you make your case in Albany, consider this as a basic necessity for CUNY and what it represents in our society.