

Marcia Newfield, BMCC Adjunct Retiree

CUNY Board of Trustees Testimony Oct 16, 2023

What is it like to be invisible? From the point of view of someone who taught for almost 30 years (1988-2015) at BMCC as an adjunct lecturer, I am here to tell you, it is very undermining. As a retired adjunct, I am not entitled to any health insurance coverage so in all the recent dialogue about retiree health insurance upsets, there is no category for me, a retired adjunct. This points to the lacunae for all the part timers who work for the city and live long enough to retire. You're on your own —last year it cost me over \$6000 and I've had no major illnesses. I wear glasses and need hearing aids. All this points to the need in New York City for a national health care plan as advocated for by the Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP). This organization currently has 22,000 members in 50 chapters. The plan they endorse is a single payer, universal comprehensive national health plan that would take care of the 46 million uninsured. Bills have been introduced to implement this plan in the NY State legislature for the past several years with increasing support. The Board of Trustees has the power to throw its influence behind this solution.