

March 24, 2017

SB 196- Health Insurance Testimony.
Chairman Roblan, members of the Senate Committee on Education-

My name is Jeff Reiser, and I am an adjunct instructor of basic math and ESL at Portland Community College. I have been teaching at the South East campus for six years, and even though there was promise of full time potential in the beginning of my time at PCC, it seems less and less likely each year. Instead, it gets harder each term to maintain a consistent schedule and livelihood. The current trend of predominantly using part timers instead of full timers means that I am constantly concerned about my career stability. From this instability come real life consequences pertaining to things like my mortgage, student loans, basic needs, and health insurance. Luckily, PCC offers adjunct faculty who teach a minimum of 1.5 FTE during the year to qualify for decent health care coverage.

Though I now benefit from this coverage, only three years ago I did not qualify and therefore had to afford insurance from the private market up until I did, which cost a whole lot more than my current premiums. The cost of all of my bills together meant that I had to postpone other parts of my life like buying a car and even starting a family. I sure do wish that my healthcare covered my wife, too. Instead, we have to pay even more each month for her coverage, and that is not okay with me. My hope is that SB 196 will help to alleviate pain for all part time post-secondary teachers and their families by providing them with affordable and excellent healthcare that cover them, their partners, and their families if they meet the requirements. Healthcare is a mandate and a necessity, but I think we can and should fight to make it a basic right for all. I judge that SB 196 is a progressive step towards that goal and I hope that you will support it with me.

Thank you for your time and consideration-

Jeff Reiser

Portland Community College