

Dear Members of the Senate Committee on Education,

My name is Evan Burton, and I am writing you on behalf of SB196.

I apologize for the lateness of this correspondence. Due to snow days, our school extended the term, and until I turned in my grades last night, I was buried under stacks of papers that required grading.

Since 2003, I have been a part-time instructor at MHCC. I love my job! Until three years ago, I had gone without health insurance because the college does not offer this benefit to part-time instructors. To be compliant with the ACA, I entered the insurance market. I lost my first plan, one that was both affordable, and one I used, until it left the state. I settled on the most "affordable plan" offered through the college. Due to cost and a high deductible, I pay between 25-30% of my income for health insurance I can't afford to use in the way that would be most beneficial to my health. I am 57 years old.

My wife has good health insurance, but due to a mental health condition our household pays high copays for multiple prescriptions. Due to our combined income, credits offered through the Insurance Exchange are just out of reach. We are affected by the so-called marriage penalty. At one point, we seriously considered getting a divorce of convenience in order to lower insurance costs on the exchange.

In principle, I support the ACA, but it would sure be nice to be able to afford to use my insurance. Due to my wife's mental health condition, and supports she sometimes requires, we decided it is best I remain a part-time instructor and pick up other part-time jobs when we really feel the pinch. Also, full-time work as a college instructor is hard to find in the Portland area. I believe roughly 60% of instructors in the Portland area are part-time or adjunct. Also, part-time work allows me to be more involved in my neighborhood and volunteer activities.

I pay my dues, so to speak, at MHCC where I am PERS eligible, and in my community. I would like to be rewarded with an actual healthcare benefit I can use, especially as I get older. I would like to be seen as more than a warm body to staff one or two classes a term. I have had part-time non-teaching jobs in the past that have offered good health coverage. Years ago. Why can't our state do the same? Even as a part-time instructor while a graduate student, I received better benefits than I do now, and at no cost.

I am a quality and experienced instructor, or at least my students seem to think so:

[Evan Burton - Rate My Professors](#)

Thank you for your consideration. Please extend my best to Lew Frederick and for his speedy recovery. He was my Tai Chi instructor in high school.

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