

Chair Fateh and Members of the Senate Higher Education Committee,

I have been a contingent faculty member in the MinnState system for over 20 years. Before the pandemic, I had not had any issues with receiving the number of credits I wanted to teach in a given semester, and that number of credits was enough to gain full insurance coverage. After the pandemic, credits have been much harder to come by. I stayed with MinnState insurance coverage when enrollment time came around in Fall 2021.

For the Spring 2022 semester, I had an assigned class taken away to give to an unlimited full-time (UFT) faculty whose class had been canceled due to low enrollment. That dropped me down to 8 credits. I was teaching another 4-credit class at the same institution through Continuing Education & Customized Training...a class that my institution offered every semester to traditional students each semester...but that 4 credits did not count toward my insurance eligibility. The required contribution to my insurance changed to about 10 times what it had been in the fall. I tried to see if I could get onto my husband's insurance, but his company did not allow me to join at that date, since I didn't actually LOSE my insurance coverage. And since this happened in spring semester, even though I had more than the required credits in Fall 2021, I had to continue paying the extra amount during the summer months. The uncertainty that I and other contingent faculty encounter with respect to course load and insurance coverage can be financially debilitating.

Apryl Henry

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