

Students, Schools, and Colleges Struggle with ObamaCare Consequences

The House Education and the Workforce Committee is investigating the effects of President Obama's health care law on the nation's schools. Click on the graphic below to read stories collected from news reports, witness testimony, and education stakeholders across the country. Want to share #YourStory? Visit edworkforce.house.gov/YourStory.

*"Many of our affiliate faculty have been disappointed to find their course loads restricted... **This increases hiring and operational costs and... could impact quality of education as well.**" – Mellani*

*"I received word today that my teaching load for the rest of the school year will be cut by four credits – a **difference of thousands of dollars in my paycheck.**" – Helienna*

"Who is really being punished is the students... The travesty is we are making a decision not to put the best teacher in front of the class." – Christopher

*"Oregon school boards that don't start adapting to the new federal rules now... **could be exposing their districts and students to new cuts and instability.**" – The Oregonian*

*"The cost of the Affordable Care Act requirements to the Meriden Board of Education approaches **\$4.6 million potentially costing us 58 teaching positions.**" – Mark*

*"At our community college district we have many employees working part-time hours... **We are now having to restrict their hours more to comply with [the health care law].**" – Kate*

"Austin Community College plans to reduce hours for some adjunct faculty members... Extending health benefits to all is 'not a sustainable option.'" – McClatchy Tribune

*"The insurance rates for my tiny district will **increase by almost 60% for the coming year.**" – Phillip*

*"We are forced to restrict students' working hours to comply with the [health care law] limit before insurance must be offered. This... has done nothing but **make matters worse in enhancing the financial burden on both students and parents.**" – Kathryn*



"I am currently adjunct faculty at a community college and have been since 2008... The courses I teach total 10 credits per semester... I have been informed that I cannot carry that load because it puts me over the hours and makes me full-time." – Cathy



"I received word today that my teaching load for the rest of the school year will be cut by four credits – a difference of thousands of dollars in my paycheck." – Helienna



"At our community college district we have many employees working without benefits who prefer to work, sometimes part-time hours... We are now having to restrict their hours more to comply with [the health care law] and we end up hiring more [part-] time workers to get the work done. This impacts our ability to properly serve students." – Kate



"The number of courses adjunct professors at the Community College System of New Hampshire can teach will be limited next semester, capping potential earnings at about \$10,000 for some who use the jobs as their main source of income." – Concord Monitor



"Many of our affiliate faculty have been disappointed to find their course loads restricted... This increases hiring and operational costs, and without an intentional focus on training and monitoring, could impact [the] quality of education as well." – Mellani



"In New Jersey, college students who enrolled this fall were among the first to experience unforeseen changes in the marketplace, with many seeing their annual health insurance costs triple. At community colleges in Bergen and Passaic counties, students lost coverage altogether." – The Record



"The last thing I need right now is another mandate and another expense, because it will impact the enrichment programs, it will impact class sizes... I can tell you it isn't going to be good for our students... if we continue on the road we have." – Mark



"Who is really being punished is the students. We might have one sub that is most qualified or fit for a certain subject, but may not be called because they have too many hours on the books. The travesty is we are making a decision not to put the best teacher in front of the class." – Christopher



"In our university, the expense of providing what we believe to be required insurance coverage to the adjuncts would actually cause us to reduce adjuncts by almost 10 percent [and] therefore limit our ability to provide the services we provide in remote areas." – Thomas



"Based on more than three semesters of actual claims experience, as well as the new provisions of the Affordable Care Act, we are facing large increases in premiums for our students." – CNN



"The Vigo County School Corporation, a 15,500-student district in Indiana, shaved the hours of about 40 percent of its 1,400 support-staff employees. Insuring them would have cost the district, which has a total budget of about \$150 million, an additional \$6 million a year." – Education Week



"Bowling Green said about 20 adjunct faculty members lost hours, and the university had to hire more part-timers to pick up the load." – Cleveland Plain Dealer



"Somerset Christian School will not offer health care as one of our staff benefits after contracts for this school year expire... Our costs increased almost 50% last year... As a nonprofit, we operate on a very tight budget and cannot afford the cost." – John



"Oregon school boards that don't start adapting to the new federal rules now – and talking with employees and the public about the trade-offs – could be exposing their districts and students to new cuts and instability." – The Oregonian



"We are forced to restrict students' working hours to comply with the [health care law] limit before insurance must be offered. This aspect of the [law] has done nothing but make matters worse in enhancing the financial burden on both students and parents." – Kathryn



"ObamaCare is raising costs for my school... Obviously this cost is going to ultimately be on students and the citizens of Pennsylvania. Students' hours are also being cut." – Rami



"Cash-strapped community colleges in Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Howard and Prince George's counties, among other places, have pre-emptively limited adjuncts' hours... Expanding health coverage to such instructors would cost schools across the state \$17 million." – The Baltimore Sun



"We have no choice but to cut hours... Students struggle enough having one substitute teacher, but then now we're going to have to possibly split the substitute time between two substitute teachers. It just makes it tough on the students to learn." – WSMV-TV



"We were faced with cutting paraprofessional hours to less than 30 per week, on average. I don't think the intent of the law was to have the lowest income workers now working fewer hours per week, and still without health care. We have now, unfortunately, created a group of individuals working even fewer hours at a job, often on two or three jobs for about 50 hours a week, and still, without health care." – Kimberley



"Austin Community College plans to reduce hours for some adjunct faculty members... Extending health benefits to all is 'not a sustainable option.'" – McClatchy Tribune



"The insurance rates for my tiny district will increase by almost 60% for the coming year... The size of the increase will either destroy our budget or it will cut our benefits to the point where the staff will have a shell of previous insurance." – Phillip



"The health care reform law championed by President Barack Obama and Democrats in Congress is prompting Richmond-area school divisions to cut part-timers' hours." – Richmond-Times Dispatch

