

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. Read stories below 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

"The University of Akron, in Ohio, has cut back the hours of 400 part-time faculty members who were teaching more than 29 hours a week." – New York Times

"All in all I am going to lose about \$14,000 a year in income." – Cris

"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

"Madison County school officials have already moved to trim the hours of part-time employees." – Herald Bulletin

"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

"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

"To comply with... ObamaCare, APU (Azusa Pacific University) student health insurance will more than triple starting next school year from \$275 to \$850 per semester." – The Clause

"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

"The [Sweetwater County School] district reports that all employees who work between 30 and 34 hours per week will be reduced to the maximum of 29 hours" – Sweetwater Now

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

"We will be forced to reduce the hours of our Educational Technicians. Reducing the ed tech hours, obviously reduces services to children here" – Quenten

"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

"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

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

"Administrators at Grinnell College in Iowa have announced that ObamaCare requirements have left them with no choice but to charge students more for health insurance in the upcoming school year" – Campus Reform

AZ "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

MO "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

CA "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

NC "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

CA "To comply with... ObamaCare, APU [Azusa Pacific University] student health insurance will more than triple starting next school year from \$275 to \$850 per semester, according to Todd Ross, executive director of Undergraduate Academic and Student Financial Services." – The Clause

NH "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

CO "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

NJ "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

CT "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

NY "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

FL "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

OH "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

IA "Administrators at Grinnell College in Iowa have announced that ObamaCare requirements have left them with no choice but to charge students more for health insurance in the upcoming school year." – Campus Reform

OH "The University of Akron, in Ohio, has cut back the hours of 400 part-time faculty members who were teaching more than 29 hours a week." – New York Times

IL "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

OR "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

IN "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

PA "All in all I am going to lose about \$14,000 a year in income." – Cris

IN "Madison County school officials have already moved to trim the hours of part-time employees." – Herald Bulletin

PA "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

MD "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

PA "ObamaCare mandates that any employee who works more than 30 hours per week be provided with health benefits, which would raise costs for the district by more than \$500,000 per year... 'It's a huge concern,'...said William Hall, superintendent of Millcreek schools. 'Anything adding to our budget is a concern, and certainly the Affordable Care Act is one of those.'" – WICU 12

MD "The [Calvert] County school system is one of the best in the state. But now the school system has a problem - ObamaCare. The system faces a 13.7 percent increase in health care costs next year, as previously uncovered substitute teachers get covered and the overall policy costs are higher." – Harlan Daily

TN "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

ME "We will be forced to reduce the hours of our Educational Technicians. Reducing the ed tech hours, obviously reduces services to the children here." – Quenten

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

MI "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

UT "Now I have 29 hours that I'm capped out at, that I cannot go above and beyond... I'm trying to stay off of Medicaid and food stamps, things like that, but this makes it utterly impossible." – KUTV

MN "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

VA "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

WY "The [Sweetwater County School] district reports that all employees who work between 30 and 34 hours per week will be reduced to the maximum of 29 hours." – Sweetwater Now