

**Subject: Support for S-2208 / H-7271: Ensuring Stability for UCAP Students**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Justin Klemanchuck, and I serve as the After School and Summer Program Director at the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP).

For more than 37 years, UCAP has provided accelerated, personalized education to students who have struggled in traditional school settings. Our students often require intensive academic and social-emotional support, and UCAP was built specifically to meet those needs.

Through my work leading UCAP's after-school and summer programming, I have the privilege of working closely with many of our students beyond the traditional school day. I see firsthand the impact that UCAP has on young people who may have previously felt disconnected from school. Many of our students come to UCAP feeling discouraged or behind academically, but with the individualized support, structure, and relationships they build here, they begin to regain confidence in themselves and their ability to succeed.

Programs like ours provide students with safe spaces to continue learning, build relationships with trusted adults, and develop the skills they need to graduate and move forward successfully. Without UCAP's specialized approach, many of these students would struggle to find the same level of support elsewhere.

S-2208 / H-7271 would modernize UCAP's statutory framework and allow additional districts to refer students, ensuring that access to UCAP is based on student need rather than district limitations.

Our students deserve continuity and stability. I urge you to support this legislation to protect a proven public education model that has served Rhode Island students for decades.

Sincerely,  
Justin Klemanchuck  
After School and Summer Program Director  
Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP)  
Providence, RI