

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alexander F. Barada, and I am writing to express my strong support for S-2208 / H-7271 and for the continued stability of the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP).

UCAP has had a direct impact on my family. Three members of my family have attended this school — my former spouse and both of my daughters. That alone speaks volumes about the trust families place in the program. Parents do not continue sending their children to a school unless they know it works.

I have had the opportunity to meet many of the educators and staff at UCAP, and their commitment to their students is clear. Year after year, this program changes the direction of hundreds of young lives by providing structure, support, and an environment where students who struggled elsewhere can succeed.

It is worth noting that families usually move away from schools that fail their children. The opposite is true here. In my family, one student's success led to another generation attending the same school. That kind of generational trust does not happen by accident — it happens because a program is doing something right.

The possibility that students could lose access to UCAP because of changes in district participation is deeply concerning. Programs like UCAP exist because many students need a different path to succeed. Taking that opportunity away would be an injustice to the adolescents who depend on this school.

Our children are our greatest investment in the future. When a school helps one generation succeed and the next generation follows, that is not coincidence — that is proof the program works.

Please support S-2208 / H-7271 so UCAP can continue the important work it has been doing for decades.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alexander F. Barada