



**Subject: Support for S-2208 / H-7271: Strengthening UCAP for the Future**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alexandra Castillo, and I am the Director of Programming at The FLY Initiative. We have worked with of the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP) as community partners providing personal finance workshop to their 8<sup>th</sup> graders.

UCAP was founded in 1989, long before alternative education models were widely available in Rhode Island and has served students who need accelerated learning and a smaller, structured environment for 37 years.

As someone who grew up in Providence, RI and never left the state. I know through personal experiences how helpful UCAP has been to the youth of Providence. Not only did my friends or family members benefitted from being students at UCAP, my high school shared space with UCAP and I got to see all the resources they poured into their students to succeed in high school.

S-2208 / H-7271 strengthens UCAP's long-term sustainability by allowing additional districts to refer students and clarifying governance and admissions authority. This legislation reflects today's educational landscape and ensures that UCAP remains a stable, accountable public option for families across Rhode Island.

I respectfully urge your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,  
Alexandra Castillo,  
Director of Programming  
The FLY Initiative  
Providence, RI