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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Andrea Joseph, and I am a former staff member and current board member of the Fund for UCAP, the fundraising entity that provides enrichment programs and capital needs for the students of the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP). UCAP was founded in 1989, long before alternative education models were widely available in Rhode Island, and has benefited thousands of students who have needed accelerated learning and a smaller, structured, supportive environment for 37 years.

Every year at the closing ceremony, students stepping up to enter high school have a consistent refrain: 'At UCAP, you didn't give up on me when I was ready to give up on myself.' This is a powerful reason you should support this legislation. Needless to say, I am proud to have been a part of this unique and essential school since 2006.

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,

*Andrea B. Joseph*

Providence, RI

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