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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 Bryna Hebert, and I am a supporter 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 served students who need accelerated learning and a smaller, structured environment for 37 years.

I am also a Licensed Mental Health Clinician, parent, and grandparent, and I know how important it is for a child to find a good fit in school so they will stay in school, benefit from the learning, and become a productive member of society. Not every child fits into a large school that is designed for the masses, and we in Rhode Island have decided time and time again that these children still count and deserve a high quality education. UCAP has been that alternative for many students.

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 for this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Bryna F Hebert, LMHC

Pawtucket, RI