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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT & EDUCATION CONSULTANT

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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Charlotte Boudreau, and I am a Youth Development and Education Consultant. I have worked as a kindergarten teacher and in Out of School Time Programming (OST) for over 30 years.

UCAP was founded in 1989, long before alternative education models were widely available in Rhode Island and has served students who need accelerated learning in a smaller, structured environment for 37 years. The need for a program like UCAP has not diminished but has become even more necessary. Public schools are struggling in a way UCAP is not. Students need an environment where they are respected, helped to feel productive and taught the skills they need to know to become successful after graduation.

Having worked as a consultant at UCAP for the last 4 years I can attest to an atmosphere where students are truly excited to be in school and OST! Administration, teachers and staff always put their students' needs first. They help them succeed at their own pace to be able to learn the foundation of what they are learning before moving on to the next step. This is done without compromising what they need to learn.

The OST program, funded by RI Department of Education, provides additional opportunities for students to participate in multiply programs including Science Exploration, Cooking, Intro to Piano, Computers, Art, Maker's Space and Sports. Providing hands-on programming allows students to try new things, be challenged and become independent thinkers.

[Senate Bill S-2208](#) and [House Bill 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. Students and families need to know they have a choice and voice as far as where they want to go to school.

I respectfully urge your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

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