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Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Charlotte Harvey, and for the past six years I've served on the board of the Fund for UCAP, the school's fundraising arm.

As you likely know, UCAP was founded 38 years ago as a safety net for children who were already falling behind in middle school, which put them at high risk not only academically but personally.

When I first met UCAP students and alumni, twenty-some years ago I was blown away by the transformation these children described. Clearly, they had blossomed under the individual care and challenges their teachers offered. Having accelerated academically, they came to appreciate their own abilities.

People often ask if UCAP is a charter school. It actually predated the development of charters and is governed by the superintendents of participating school districts. In today's educational world, that's no longer a viable structure.

S-2208/H-7271 is a critical piece of legislation for UCAP's long-term sustainability. It would clarify governance and admission structures and allow additional school districts to refer appropriate students. The legislation ensures that UCAP can continue serving students who need an alternative path to success. For decades, UCAP has helped young people who were at risk of falling behind move forward with purpose. Supporting this legislation will help ensure that future generations of students continue to have access to this life-changing opportunity.

I respectfully urge your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Harvey

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