
Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dan Corley, and I am a board member of the Fund for UCAP and a donor of the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP). In addition, my oldest grandchild is the fifth generation of my family to be born within a couple miles of St. Joseph Hospital, where I was born. I know the neighborhood.

My relationship with Rob DeBlois, the school's founder, goes back to his visiting Community Prep School in 1987 and deciding that he would like to turn the summer program for public school students that he had founded, Spirit, into an actual public school. UCAP was founded in 1989. I helped him think about it.

We were close friends shortly after he visited Community Prep, and worked on a number of projects throughout our professional lives. These projects included strengthening both UCAP and Community Prep, creating a group for leaders of small schools to get together and discuss how to best improve their schools, and introducing charter school legislation in Rhode Island. UCAP was basically an independent, public school serving those who most needed the help and Community Prep was an independent, private school serving a group of students who reflected the diversity and economics of the public school populations. We thought that we were a good pair of educators to take on the task of bringing charter schools to this state.

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 know that Rob would be delighted to envision the school that UCAP can become under this proposal.

I respectfully urge your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Dan Corley
Founder and Head of School of Community Prep School
31 Westmore Street
Providence