

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Darshell Silva, and I once served as the Librarian at the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP).

For more than 37 years, UCAP has provided accelerated, personalized education to students who have struggled in traditional settings. Our students often require intensive academic and social-emotional support, and UCAP was built specifically to meet those needs.

Former students from UCAP still reach out to me to tell me how they would not be where they are in life, if they had not had the chance to attend UCAP. UCAP provides students with one to one help, resources, and experiences that they would not be able to access at traditional schools.

S-2208 / H-7271 would modernize UCAP's statutory framework and allow additional districts to refer students. This ensures that access to UCAP is based on student need.

Our students deserve continuity and stability. I urge you to support this legislation to protect a proven public education model that has served Rhode Island students for decades.

Sincerely,

Darshell Silva  
West Warwick, RI  
(current Librarian at Central High School Providence, RI)