

Subject: Support for S-2208 / H-7271: Ensuring Stability for UCAP Students

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elizabeth Beckman, and I serve as the art teacher 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.

I have been the art teacher at the UCAP School for the past three years. This is a place that has made an incredible positive impact on the lives of thousands of children and their families. The UCAP School is a place where students who may have struggled in a traditional school setting are given the opportunity and encouragement they need to be successful. Every day, I see students who are gaining confidence, creativity, and courage as they realize that their voices and ideas are important. The small classes and individualized attention have been instrumental in helping many students pave the road to their success. Many students come to our school feeling discouraged about their educational experience, and we are able to help them rediscover their strengths and potential. We are a safe and structured environment where students can focus on their learning and growth.

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,
Elizabeth Beckman, Art Teacher at The UCAP School
West Warwick, RI