

March 17, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gary Friedmann, and I am a Board Member of the Fund for UCAP whose primary mission is to raise, hold, and invest funds solely for the benefit of the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP).

UCAP was founded in 1989, long before alternative education models were widely available in Rhode Island, and has served students who need accelerated learning and a smaller, structured environment for 37 years.

I have been a Board member of the Fund for UCAP since its inception. I have had the opportunity to visit the school on numerous occasions and always leave extremely impressed with the passion and dedication the educators have for serving the students of UCAP. The interactions that I have had with students are more impressive. It is amazing to see the progress that they make and the confidence that they exhibit during their presentations and the many tours that I have taken of the school.

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 respectfully urge your support of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gary J. Friedmann", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary J. Friedmann
North Kingstown