

March 9, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jenna Chandler-Ward, and I served as an instructional coach in 2024-2025 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 witnessed first-hand how students engaged with and grappled with difficult content at UCAP. It is my belief that it is the nature of the program, the outstanding educators and the family atmosphere that UCAP gives their students, that allows for transformational learning to happen.

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,

Jenna Chandler-Ward  
Education Consultant  
Providence