

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karen Tavares and I live in Providence, RI. I am the parent/guardian of a student at the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP).

I am writing to strongly support S-2208 / H-7271. UCAP has made a difference in my child's life.

Before UCAP, my child struggled in traditional school settings. She struggled academically and didn't feel supported to work to her full potential. She didn't feel listened to by peers or teachers. Her self esteem and confidence wained. All 3 of my children and my brother and many friends have attended UCAP through the years.

At UCAP, they have found structure, support, and confidence. Academically my child is thriving. She is encouraged daily to work to her full potential. She feels heard. Her self esteem and confidence has soared. She feels like UCAP is a family. She loves going to school. She loves learning and it's all thanks to the teachers and staff at UCAP.

The possibility of students being forced to leave UCAP because of changes in district participation is deeply concerning to families like mine. Students who are succeeding deserve stability, not disruption.

This legislation would allow UCAP to continue serving students based on need and would provide long-term stability for the program. For families like ours, that stability matters.

Please support S-2208 / H-7271 to protect students and ensure UCAP can continue its important work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Karen Tavares  
Providence, Rhode Island