

**Subject: Support for S-2208 / H-7271: Strengthening UCAP for the Future**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kenneth Clauser and I am a board member 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 was a high school teacher for 37 years at the Wheeler School in Providence and taught one of UCAP's graduates, Leidy Valencia who is now a lawyer in Chicago. I saw first-hand the difference that UCAP's approach can make in a student's life. This personal, challenging program offers young people who are willing to work hard the opportunity to succeed and to develop confidence. There needs to be a place in Rhode Island for a school like UCAP that provides these opportunities for our most vulnerable children.

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,

Kenneth Clauser, board member the UCAP School

Barrington, Rhode Island