

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kimberly Hunt, and I have been a supporter of the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP) since its inception 37 years ago.

My brother-in-law, Rob DeBlois, had the vision to found UCAP in 1989, long before alternative education models were widely available in Rhode Island. I have witnessed how students who need accelerated learning in a smaller, structured environment can thrive when given that opportunity.

The success of UCAP is nothing short of extraordinary. The dedication of the professionals, and the support of the community, have delivered outstanding results for these young people and their families. Reducing the probability of students dropping out of school, and increasing the probability of their academic success, and therefore lifetime opportunities, is priceless.

S-2208/ H-7271 strengthen 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,  
Kimberly Hunt  
South Kingstown, RI