

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lois Gendreau, and I am writing on behalf of a family that I mentor. I live in South Kingstown and the family lives in Providence. The family that I mentor has a student who attends 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, this student that I have been mentoring since he arrived in Rhode Island, struggled at a traditional middle school setting. He did very well in the public elementary school where he was nurtured but in the very large middle school he felt lost. He experienced bullying and was not progressing well in his academics, despite working very hard.

At UCAP, he has found structure, support, and confidence. He has smaller class sizes and is supported with his language development and adjusting to life in the United States. As his mentor, I have found excellent communication with his advisor and other teachers, giving me feedback that is helpful for me to be able to encourage and support his learning and social emotional development.

The possibility of students being forced to leave UCAP because of changes in district participation is deeply concerning to families like the one I advise. 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 this young man's, 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,

Lois Gendreau

South Kingstown, representing a family in Providence