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March 9, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Lynda McCoy and I am a supporter of the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP). UCAP was founded in 1989, long before alternative education models were widely available in Rhode Island, and for 37 years it has served students who need accelerated learning and a smaller, structured environment.

I have seen UCAP's success first-hand over the years, through my service on the Fund for UCAP Board and other committees, and through my personal relationships with UCAP staff. UCAP is a special place that puts its students first, and its students succeed despite personal hardships and obstacles. Those students need the learning environment that UCAP provides, and I hope you will vote to continue that.

S-2208 and H-7271 strengthen UCAP's long-term sustainability by allowing additional districts to refer students, and by 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. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Lynda McCoy  
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