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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Marcie Cummings, and I am a board member of The Fund For UCAP 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.

Years ago I had the opportunity to hear Rob DeBlois speak about his founding of UCAP. His singular vision, passion and tenacity were evident in his presentation. Inspired by Rob, I immediately signed up as a volunteer for UCAP. I am now a Board Member. I firmly believe that Providence needs a school like UCAP. It has provided so many students with a second chance to flourish, academically and personally. Closing UCAP would constitute a tremendous loss for the Providence community, particularly for the students it serves.

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,

Marcie Cummings

Kingston, Rhode Island