

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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mary Galvin. I am a resident of Smithfield RI and a member of the Board for the Fund for UCAP Committee, the fundraising arm of the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP).

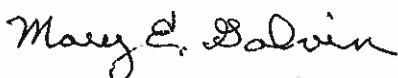
UCAP was founded in 1989, long before alternative education models were widely available in Rhode Island and has served students who need accelerated learning and a smaller, structured environment for 37 years.

Despite struggling in elementary school, through the support of my parents and some excellent teachers, I was able to obtain a graduate education. This enabled me to have a career in science and research that went way beyond what I could have dreamed of as a child and instilled in me a commitment to ensuring that others have the chance to reach their potentials. As the Dean of the College of Science at the University of Notre Dame I developed a program for students who wanted STEM careers but entered with weak science and math preparation. Watching these students flourish was exhilarating. When I joined the Board at UCAP and meet and heard the stories of UCAP's students, I again encountered that same flourishing and excitement in the UCAP students. They have been taught to love learning and believe in themselves and their potential. This would not have happened in another school and there is no better gift we can provide.

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,



Mary E. Galvin

Fund for UCAP, Member of the Board

Dean Emeritus College of Science, University of Notre Dame