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

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Noah Agostini. I am an assisting facility manager at UCAP and a co-owner at OceanState & Cleantech Services. Through my role, I have worked directly within UCAP's environment alongside board members and staff, giving me firsthand insight into how this program operates and the impact it has on its students.

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 decades.

What stands out most about UCAP is the level of structure, collaboration, and purpose within the program. It is not just a school — it operates as a unified team where staff, leadership, and students are all working toward a collective goal of growth and success. There is a balance that UCAP achieves that is incredibly difficult to replicate: students feel supported, understood, and secure, while still being held to a standard that pushes them to improve and take accountability.

From my experience inside the facility, I have seen how creating a structured and supportive environment directly impacts behavior, focus, and progress. Students are not only given the opportunity to learn — they are placed in an environment where they feel safe enough to actually do so.

Without programs like UCAP, it is difficult to imagine where many of these students would end up. The impact of this program goes far beyond academics — it provides direction, stability, and a sense of belonging that is critical during formative years. From both a community and operational perspective, the value of UCAP is undeniable.

S-2208 / H-7271 strengthens 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 needs 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,
Noah Agostini
Co-Owner, OceanState & Cleantech
Rumford, RI