

Subject: Support for S-2208 / H-7271: Ensuring Stability for UCAP Students

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Riana Fedeli, and I serve as the Director of Development and Communications at the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP).

For more than 37 years, UCAP has provided accelerated, personalized education to students who have struggled in traditional school settings. Our students often require intensive academic and social-emotional support, and UCAP was built specifically to meet those needs.

Each day, I have the privilege of supporting and working at an organization that serves young people who often have not found success in traditional school environments. At UCAP, students find the missing pieces to their education: small class sizes, individualized instruction and the support needed to rebuild confidence in themselves and their education. I have seen firsthand how powerful UCAP's impact on students is. Students who once felt disconnected at school now enjoy participating in class discussions, group activities, field trips and after school programming. When students attend UCAP, they know they are our priority. They know they are safe. They know we want them here.

In my role, I work closely with community partners and donors who believe deeply in UCAP's mission. Our success is not only the result of educators in the classroom, but also of the community that believes in our students and the work we do daily. The investments they make in our school reflects a shared understanding that students who need a different educational setting deserve a stable, loving and well supported program. Supporting UCAP means supporting a proven model that gives students the second chance they need to succeed.

S-2208 / H-7271 would modernize UCAP's statutory framework and allow additional districts to refer students. This ensures that access to UCAP is based on student need.

Our students deserve continuity and stability. I respectfully urge you to support this legislation to protect a proven public education model that has served Rhode Island students for decades and will help ensure that generations of students continue to benefit from the opportunities only UCAP can provide.

Sincerely,
Riana Fedeli,
Director of Development and Communications
Providence, RI