

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Sarah B. McCann. I live in Providence and I am the parent/guardian of a student currently at the Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program (UCAP).

I am writing to strongly support S-2208 / H-7271. UCAP has made a great difference in my child's life.

Before UCAP, my child struggled in traditional school settings; She did not enjoy school. She struggled both socially and academically. Because of that, her whole attitude towards the process of learning and acquiring knowledge suffered. She was very shy & insecure socially, as well as with her academic confidence. She did not find joy in the learning process; she only felt defeat.

Since starting at UCAP, she has blossomed into a strong, confident, secure young teenager who has found purpose & meaning in her community. She has begun to realize her capabilities, her potential & all the gifts she brings into the world.

She is the third of my children to attend this program, as well as my brother. UCAP holds a very special place in our hearts.

The community there is SO VERY CRUCIAL, in helping children learn to overcome their struggles. Not only do I support everything being done at UCAP, but I also think many Providence schools could learn from their model of the importance of social/emotional health & growth. I'm sure any one of you, who knows anything about child & even human development would agree that in order for anyone to be able to grow into their greatest potential, healthy social/emotional development needs to be present. At UCAP, THIS IS HAPPENING EVERY DAY! It is clear, from the very first experience with incoming families, to the multitudes of opportunities for family involvement, to the quality of the caring & devoted staff they hire. These factors are essential for building a program where young teens feel they matter and can thrive. Not just if they can repeat academic facts, but they are allowed to question, be curious, get excited and be authentically themselves and all these things are valued & celebrated, not discouraged.

At UCAP, these young teens have found structure, support, and confidence.

The possibility of students being forced to leave UCAP because of changes in district participation is deeply concerning to families like mine. We value the education our children receive greatly and feel that UCAP does an amazing job of meeting our child's needs in every aspect of her development. We have no doubt that she will emerge from UCAP ready to face the next chapter of her life with confidence and a thirst for knowledge.

Students who are succeeding deserve stability, not disruption. These students have worked so hard to get to where they are at and PPSD pulling their support for this program sends the message that all the effort, all the vulnerability, all the chances these kids have taken to get as far as they have come, are not valued.

Our job, as a society, is to work to the best of our ability to make the world a better place. UCAP makes these children want to be the best version of themselves. Isn't that what we should want for our children, to want to be the leaders of tomorrow? Personally, I support that 100%!

S-2208 / H-7271 would allow UCAP to continue serving students based on need and would provide long-term stability for the program. For families like ours, voting yes to support these bills sends the message that stability matters.

Please support S-2208 / H-7271 to protect students and ensure UCAP can continue its important work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah B. McCann
Providence