

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee

My name is V Raffini, and I currently serve as a performing artist that helps with yearly graduation ceremonies. I was also an educator who taught elective classes at UCAP from 1990-2015.

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

In these times, I have made some great relationships between families and students. Because UCAP was started in the community and had remained here, as well as many of the facilities that live here as well, I believe is one of the strongest reasons that these strong relationships are able to develop and grow stronger. I have former students, who graduated from decades ago to right now that still call and reach out to me. UCAP has taken care of, nurtured, and looked out for all of their students with caring and understanding. These qualities are not found in other learning institutions and that is just a couple of reasons why UCAP is unique and so important.

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 urge you to support this legislation to protect a proven public education model that has served Rhode Island students for decades.

Sincerely,
V Raffini
E.D. Violet's Village
Community Health Worker
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