

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Vivienne O'Dwyer Donohue and I am a resident of Middletown, RI. I write in **strong support of S-2208 / H-7271**. I have been serving on the Event Planning Committee for the Fund for UCAP since 2023 and previously served as the Director of Development at the UCAP School from 2015-2018.

The Urban Collaborative Accelerated Program was founded in 1989 by Rob DeBlois and a group of enthusiastic educators. The UCAP School has partnered with neighboring school districts to identify students who need more personalized learning and smaller classroom sizes, ensuring students receive the educational resources that they need so they may move on to high school feeling more confident. For over 20 years, the Beyond U Program has extended the school day offering enriching activities after school, on the weekends and throughout the summer.

The UCAP School holds a very special place in my heart! I learned so much from Rob DeBlois when I served as the Director of Development for UCAP. I loved raising support for the Beyond U Programs and was honored when I was asked to join the event planning committee for the annual spring fundraiser. The Beyond U Program has such a positive impact on students! Some of the kids have overcome challenging obstacles and hardships to simply get to school. It always amazed me the transformation that would occur throughout the school year and seeing first hand how a learning environment filled with love, and educators who truly care impacts students.

**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,

Vivienne O'Dwyer Donohue  
Middletown, RI