



Alliance Partners

American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

Association for Career and Technical Education, Family & Consumer Sciences Education Division

Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Board on Human Sciences

Council of Administrators of Family & Consumer Sciences

Family & Consumer Sciences Education Association

International Federation for Home Economics

National Association of State Administrators of Family & Consumer Sciences

National Association of Teacher Educators for Family & Consumer Sciences

National Association of Teachers of Family & Consumer Sciences

National Coalition for Black Development in Family & Consumer Sciences

National Extension Association of Family & Consumer Sciences

Kappa Omicron Nu

Phi Upsilon Omicron

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America

USDA, National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Family & Consumer Sciences

February 10, 2015

Dear Ms. Van Susteren,

Thank you for voicing your support on January 29th during *On the Record* for teaching “skills” classes in secondary school, including home economics. By covering this issue, you join others, including authors of “Bring Back Home Economics,” published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, who believe that this curriculum needs to be revitalized in our schools. Thankfully, family and consumer sciences courses, founded as home economics classes, are still a critical part of the middle and high school curriculum.

The Family & Consumer Sciences Alliance, led by the American Association of Family & Consumer Sciences (AAFCS) represents more than 200,000 family and consumer sciences professionals and students who are passionate about preparing students to live effectively as individuals, families, members of the workforce, and public citizens making a positive impact on their communities.

More than 27,000 family and consumer sciences secondary educators teach more than 3 million students nationwide. In their courses, family and consumer sciences educators provide research-based knowledge and essential skills in the areas of personal and family finance, nutrition and wellness, human development, housing and interior design, textiles and apparel, and consumer issues.

We agree with you that investing in family and consumer sciences programs would help increase job growth and reduce employment. Secondary and post-secondary family and consumer sciences students have the opportunity to explore and prepare for careers in culinary, nutrition, dietetics, education, early childhood, fashion design, interior design, textiles, tourism and hospitality, food science, social services, and many human services related careers. **Half of the fastest growing career and technical education programs are related to early childhood and culinary arts, which are associated with higher than average employment growth.**

If you are interested in learning more about the field, please visit www.aafcs.org/AboutUs/NewsRoom.asp. If you are interested in covering additional family and consumer sciences topics on your show and would like to interview an expert, please contact Gwynn Mason, AAFCS director of communications, at pr@aaafcs.org or 703-706-4613.

Thank you for your time and support for family and consumer sciences!

Sincerely,

Bev Card, CFCS
AAFCS President

Carolyn W. Jackson, CFCS
AAFCS Executive Director