



February 1, 2025

Dear Members of the Georgia Legislature,

Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), the People-Centered Sciences, draws from broad and diverse disciplines to develop and provide delivery of research-based information through experiential education and technology. FCS professionals help individuals and families develop essential knowledge and skills to successfully live and work in a complex world, and make meaningful contributions to our communities.

Professionals in the field are uniquely qualified to speak on many critical issues affecting individuals and families, such as maintaining a healthy lifestyle, wisely managing personal and family finances, and creating supportive relationships with family members, friends and co-workers. They are located nationwide in a variety of practice settings, including secondary schools, universities, government agencies, and businesses.

FCS professionals across the nation honored the founder of our profession, Ellen Swallow Richards, the first female graduate of MIT, by celebrating FCS Day on her birthday, December 3rd. They ELEVATED and celebrated every Friday in December to tell the history, mission, impact, and value of the profession with speakers and members sharing stories through multiple media platforms and events.

"Say YES to FCS" is a national campaign to fill the Family and Consumer Sciences Educator Pipeline. There is an established and growing shortage of FCS professionals to serve in educator positions in secondary education, higher education and Extension education. National FCS Educator Day is February 12, 2025. FCS educators provide opportunities to develop critical thinking, problem solving and leadership skills, and sustainable practices to address problems in diverse family, community and work environments.

The Georgia Affiliate is an organizational member of the International Federation for Home Economics, an International Non-Governmental Organization, which has consultative status with the United Nations. Annually, we celebrate the International Day of Families on May 15th. The Georgia Affiliate is engaged with an advocacy program to increase awareness of the value and impact of our profession and affordable, available, and quality childcare.

The "Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act", HB2353, reauthorized the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act. It specifically mentions, "...support for Family and Consumer Sciences programs to enhance personal effectiveness skills in order to develop strong workforce readiness..." under local use of funds.

Family and Consumer Sciences professionals work to:

- Reduce risk behaviors of youth, increase rates of family bonding and child success, increase quality of child care, and increase school readiness of children;
- Increase financial security and economic opportunities through development of local entrepreneurs and support for both consumers and businesses;
- Promote better health and prevention of chronic disease through holistic approaches to address complex issues -- food choice, physical activity, and community environments;
- Provide opportunities in classrooms to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behaviors needed for strengthening the well-being of individuals and families across the life span;
- Become responsible citizens and leaders for family, community and work settings.

With Governor Kemp's Proclamation of February 13, 2025, as Family and Consumer Sciences Day in Georgia, we celebrate not only at the Capitol, but also throughout Georgia, the positive impact that the profession of Family and Consumer Sciences makes in Georgians' lives every day.

Sincerely,

Tracey Brigman

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