August 10, 2018

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences, which represents more than 200,000 Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) professionals and students, we were pleased to see Marti Harvey promoting the value of teaching high school students about personal finance, meal planning and preparation, and other essential skills for living well in her recent article, “Bring back home economics class because our kids lack basic life skills.” Thankfully, Family and Consumer Sciences courses, founded as home economics classes, are still a critical part of the middle and high school curriculum and teach the skills that she would like students to learn.

Today, more than 27,000 Family and Consumer Sciences secondary educators teach more than 3 million students nationwide. In Family and Consumer Sciences courses, a strong part of Career and Technical Education, educators not only help prepare students for careers, but also provide research-based knowledge and essential skills in the areas of personal and family finance, food science and nutrition, health management and wellness, human development and family relations, housing and interior design, culinary arts, and textiles and apparel.

FCS classes provide students with many opportunities to apply the concepts learned in math, science, and language arts through hands-on application, such as creating a budget based on a particular income, analyzing the nutrients in food, and preparing a resume. While FCS classes are not required in all states, the Alliance agrees with Ms. Harvey that FCS classes should be required for graduation.

With the essential skills education and career preparation provided in FCS classes and the support of parents and decision makers, our students will attain the research-based knowledge and skills they need to lead better lives, be work and career ready, build strong families, and make meaningful contributions to our communities.

Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us alliance@aafcs.org if you would like more information.

Sincerely,

Carolyn W. Jackson CFCS
Managing Director, Alliance for Family & Consumer Sciences