

Background and Speaking Points to Senators Regarding Family and Consumer Sciences Inclusion in Perkins Reauthorization

BACKGROUND:

1. The [Perkins Act](#) has been guiding Career and Technical Education (CTE) since 1984. It allocates funds to each state. They, in turn, pass those funds along to local school districts to be used at the local level. Decisions about which programs to support are made at the state and/or local level as stated within current Perkins legislation.

2. The field of [Family and Consumer Sciences](#) (FCS), formerly Home Economics, draws from a range of disciplines to promote optimal and sustainable quality of life for individuals, families, and the communities in which they live and work.

FCS interdisciplinary knowledge is essential because the phenomena and challenges of everyday life are not typically one-dimensional.

FCS foundational content needed for success in all careers includes:

- Life management
- Human development and family studies
- Food and nutrition
- Healthy relationship skills
- Health and wellness
- Personal and family finance
- Textiles and clothing
- Shelter and housing
- Consumerism and consumer science

Employability skills also taught in all FCS classes include:

- Leadership
- Collaboration and team work
- Critical thinking
- Communication
- Problem solving
- Career preparation

These two sets of skills and knowledge add up to personal effectiveness that promote strong workforce readiness.

3. Since the beginning of Perkins legislation, FCS programs were included as an allowable use of funds. Today, FCS classes not tied to a career pathway directly but instead teaching personal effectiveness are in jeopardy. Many may not realize the move to the career clusters model (which does not identify FCS by name), has led to states and districts questioning the allowance of any Perkins monies for any FCS programs. This can't continue!

4. Perkins is currently up for re-authorization. An opportunity for adding language that allows recognition of FCS programs to the bill is now at hand. FCS programs' unique ability to address personal effectiveness needs to be placed into the bill. The House has approved their version ([HR2353](#)) without any mention of personal effectiveness or FCS. The Senate is now reviewing HR2353 to determine the appropriateness of the section details and determine next steps. See below for requested location and phrasing needing to be added.

5. The Senate HELP committee meets next week, either Tuesday the 26th or Wednesday the 27th, to discuss their approach to re-authorizing Perkins. Members of that committee MUST be contacted now!

6. We have one last opportunity to add FCS personal effectiveness language into Perkins. Thank YOU for reaching out to your senator to ask them to add this language, which is critical to supporting FCS programs. It must be included in Perkins because this will FCS programs to receive the benefits (such as grants, funding, inclusion in CTE discussions and more) and remaining a strong part of CTE in schools so that students benefit.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Call your Senator's DC office ([list of HELP members is here](#)) because hearing from YOU, a constituent, will really make the difference. Ask to speak with their staff person who has Career and Technical Education in their portfolio.
2. If that staff person is not available ask for their email. Extra points if you leave a voice mail AND send an email.
3. Introduce yourself to the staff person telling them that you live in that state. If you feel comfortable telling them the name of your organization, and the good work you do in the state, feel free to do so.
4. Tell them you are calling because you are interested in the Perkins reauthorization which will be discussed in Executive Session on next week.

Updated Information regarding H.R. 2353 as received in the Senate June 26, 2017

--Since there is no Senate bill to align our requests, H.R. 2353 as given to the Senate is being used. All reference information below is based upon this original submission document.

5. Your request is to *"add language that promotes personal effectiveness in order to increase workforce readiness through FCS programs."*
6. **Wording being requested:**
"support for Family and Consumer Sciences programs to enhance personal effectiveness skills in order to develop strong workforce readiness"
7. **Justification:**
 - I. Personal effectiveness skills (as identified by the Department of Labor's tiered competency model) are vital to the success and readiness of the workforce in all industry sectors;
 - II. Family and Consumer Sciences:
 - a. Impacts the productivity of the worker (who makes up the workforce) through instruction and practice of work/life balance, individual and family financial literacy, healthy relationships and making informed wellness decisions among others;
 - b. Addresses unique content which directly impacts the financial bottom line for all industries;

III. The addition of the addition listed above adds no additional cost but allows states and local entities to address this important component of life and workforce readiness.

8. Insertion Request:

Two places are being requested- Sect. 123 “State Leadership Activities” and Sect. 135 “Local Uses of Funds” as both are needed to address the issues above at the local level and provide state support to do so.

Insertion Location #1: Sect. 123 “State Leadership Activities” (beginning on page 69)

Change Location: “Sect 124 (20 U.S.C. 2344) is amended” under “(3) subsection C, by striking paragraphs (1) through (17) and inserting the following”

1. (Page 76) Move (18) lines 8-12 to new number (19)
2. Replace (18) with “*support for Family and Consumer Sciences programs to enhance personal effectiveness skills in order to develop strong workforce readiness*”

Insertion Location #2: Sect. 135 “Local Use of Funds” (beginning on page 86)

Change Location: Sect. 135—under “(3) in subsection (c), by striking paragraphs (1) through (17) and inserting the following”—under (5)

1. (Page 90) Move (S) lines 3-4 to new letter (T)
2. Replace (S) with “*support for Family and Consumer Sciences programs to enhance personal effectiveness skills in order to develop strong workforce readiness*”

9. Ask the staff person to share with your senator that keeping FCS in Perkins is important to you and then tell them why.....does it support your work and jobs in your state? Will it increase workforce readiness? Is it personal? Do you have a story?

10. **If your senator is a Republican**, ask them to also contact Senator Alexander (chair) and his committee staff telling them that they would like to see this language included in the Senate’s version.

11. **If your senator is a Democrat**, ask them to also contact Senator Murray (ranking member) and her committee staff telling them they would like to see this language included in the Senate’s version.

12. Thank them. Send a confirming email.

13. Report your good work back to Kay Reed - Kayreed@DibbleInstitute.org!

14. If you have friends, family, colleagues who you can get to make the call before end of the day on Tuesday (June 19th), that would be awesome! Politicians are mathematicians. They count ALL contacts!

Please let Kay also know your questions (510) 812-6238!

On behalf of the students of America, thank you!