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The University of Georgia
College of Family & Consumer Sciences
Office of Associate Dean for Outreach

CREES Listening Session Oct. 8, 2002
Written Testimony
Kansas City

I am Tom Rodgers, Associate Dean for Outreach and Extension at the University of Georgia College of Family and Consumer Sciences. Much of my background is in economic development. My testimony will give examples of the economic impact of family and consumer programming in our state. Like many states our economy is pretty weak this year, and that is especially the case in the 100 rural counties of our state. These same rural counties don't have many educational sources of assistance for adults, and many adults have only Extension to which to turn.

I. Georgia Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agents provide approximately 1/3 of child care provider training for our state and practically all of the training in rural Georgia. Our childcare workers are required by the state to take 10 hours of professional development each year. A case can be made that the childcare industry is reliant upon Extension for it effectiveness. The economic side of this is that there are approximately 200,000 children served in Georgia at an average cost of $3,000 per year, thus an economic impact of $60 million. It seems to me that the federal and state government should support an organization that directly serves a $60 million industry.

II. Georgia Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agents also work in the area of home ownership, particularly affordable housing for the workforce. We are finding a pent up demand for home ownership and a lack of knowledge of available programs, how to obtain a loan and how to select quality housing. Because of Extension's work in this area affordable housing subdivisions are being built. An example of the economic impact of this work is the creation of a 20 home subdivision of homes selling for an average of $130,000, thus a direct impact on the community of $2.6 million. This does not include the multiplier effect of local labor, building supplies, furniture and grass and landscape shrubs.

III. Georgia Extension Family and Consumer Sciences agents also work in the area of financial literacy. In one ten county area in South Georgia the program goal for the early winter is to assist 1,000 local citizens to file for earned income tax credit and childcare tax credit for the first time. The conservative estimate is for returns of $2500 per tax filer, thus an economic impact of $2.5 million. The next goal for this project will be to assist local citizens with wealth creation including budgeting , checking accounts, savings and hopefully ultimately home ownership.

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