FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
February 4, 2015

The California State Library in collaboration with First 5 California presents
A Special Night at the State Library
The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation
Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Sacramento, Calif. – In a first-ever event, First 5 California and the California State Library are screening the forthcoming PBS documentary, The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of Our Nation, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, on Wednesday, February 11 from 5 -7 p.m.

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion whose members include California State Senator Holly J. Mitchell; Creator and Executive Producer for The Raising of America Larry Adelman; Dr. Joshua D. Sparrow, Brazelton Touchpoints Center child psychologist; and Suzanne Flint, Child Development Specialist from the California State Library and principal architect for its Early Learning with Families initiative. The panel moderator is Kim Belshé, Executive Director of First 5 LA. Panelists will discuss how libraries and other organizations help make a major difference in early childhood development.

The Raising of America: Early Childhood and the Future of our Nation is a special overview of the five-part series, which explores early childhood health and development. The documentary examines why child well-being in the U.S. is far below that in other rich countries. The latest discoveries in neuroscience are also probed to see how brain chemistry and environment can positively affect a child’s well-being. According to the Executive Producer of The Raising of America Larry Adelman, “Why, if we know so much about what our babies and young children need to thrive, do we do so little? How can we as a community, a state and as a nation, do better? That’s the debate The Raising of America hopes to stimulate.”

The California State Library and First 5 California formed this first-ever partnership because of the importance of the latest early childhood development discoveries on the future of our children, our state and our country. Camille Maben, Executive Director of First 5 California states, “Partnerships are key to informing and effectively mobilizing those who care about our youngest children and strive to give them the best start in life. First 5 California and the State Library showcase such a partnership... providing a powerful platform for engaging child care professionals and parents on the importance of the earliest years and how they impact a child’s success in school and beyond.”

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WHAT: A Night at the State Library
WHERE: DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
2001 Point West Way
Sacramento, California
WHEN: Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 5-7 p.m. The event is free with RSVP.
Light refreshments served.
For more information: deborah.lynch@library.ca.gov or 916-651-6452.

A Night at the California State Library continues the 165-year tradition of successfully connecting Californians to our collective history through its special events and is made possible by generous donations from the California State Library Foundation.

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