



**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."

-more-

**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.

**RSVP at Eventbrite:** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/a-night-at-the-state-library-in-collaboration-with-first-5-california-presents-the-raising-of-tickets-15538941392> Please print free ticket and present at the door. For more information: [deborah.lynch@library.ca.gov](mailto: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.

#####