***Your Library Letterhead***

***Date***

Dear ***Legislator***:

Libraries across California offer free and easy access to books and programs, connecting young children and their families to the learning resources they need for success in school.

Here in your district, ***these libraries*** serve children ages 0-5 alongside their parents at regular events, such as ***events/programs***. Last year, program attendance topped ***this number*** as little learners engaged with stories, songs, rhymes and other activities that provide the building blocks of education. Free library cards give families the opportunity to borrow an endless supply of books, creating a print-rich environment in the home and helping to advance children’s literacy.

Our library also fills a gap in the formal educational system, particularly for children too young for preschool or K-12 schooling. Flexible program offerings, alongside ***weekend/evening*** hours, help parents choose when and how to enjoy learning at the library together. We partner with ***these agencies*** to enhance the value and reach of library offerings by connecting families with direct services, extending programs beyond library walls.

***Brief anecdote(s) of programs and impacts, with outcomes. Quotes are great! Find ideas in the brochure. Also consider your legislator’s own priorities and focus areas. Highlight those connections.***

We invite you and your staff to explore your local libraries, and urge you to include libraries in strategies and plans that invest in early childhood education. May we offer you the chance to read to children at storytime on ***an upcoming date?*** We also encourage you to enjoy this brochure highlighting the work of libraries all over the state.

With respect,

***Your Library***