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Hollingsworth, Organizations Set News Conference for California's First Fragile X Awareness Day on April 18

Senator Authored Measure to Shed Light on Most Common Known Inherited Cause of Mental Impairment and Autism

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Erica Warren (619) 596-3136

SACRAMENTO - State Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, R-Murrieta, announced today he will be hosting a celebration and news conference with several local, statewide and national organizations at 11 a.m. on the south steps of the Capitol on April 18 for the state's first Fragile X Awareness Day.

The recent chaptering of SCR 65 designates April 18 of each year as "Fragile X Awareness Day" in California. The measure was authored by Hollingsworth. Fragile X is the most common known an inherited cause of mental impairment, and gets its name from a break or "fragile" spot on the X chromosome. One in every 260 women is a carrier of the Fragile X defect, which can cause disorders in children, such as autism and mental impairment.

The measure received support from numerous organizations, including the National Fragile X Foundation, the FRAXA Research Foundation, Fragile X Associations of Northern and Southern California, the M.I.N.D. Institute at the UC Davis Health System, the Fragile X Center of San Diego, the Laurel Ruff Center in the San Juan Unified School District and several private citizens, many of whom are parents of children with Fragile X.

CALIFORNIA FRAGILE X AWARENESS DAY

WHEN: 11 a.m.; Tuesday, April 18, 2006

WHERE: State Capitol, South Steps

SPEAKERS: Senator Dennis Hollingsworth, measure author; Dr. Randi Hagerman, Endowed Chair of Fragile X Research at the UC Davis M.I.N.D. Institute; Robert Miller, Executive Director of the National Fragile X Foundation; and parents of children with Fragile X syndrome including, Cindy de Gruchy, President of the Fragile X Center of San Diego; Andrea Shelly, President of the Orange County Chapter of FRAXA; and Danielle Andreassi of Allied Gardens in San Diego County

California Fragile X Awareness Day:

http://info.sen.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_0051-0100/scr_65_bill_20060221_chaptered.pdf

For more information on Fragile X, visit:

www.fragilexsandiego.org

Dennis Hollingsworth is the Senate Republican Caucus Whip representing the 36th Senate District, which includes East San Diego County, portions of the City of San Diego, and Southwest Riverside County.

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EMAIL: Senator.Hollingsworth@sen.ca.gov

Capitol Office:

State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814
Phone: (916) 651-4036
Fax: (916) 447-9008

Temecula Office:

27555 Ynez Road, #204
Temecula, CA 92591
Phone: (951) 676-1020
Fax: (951) 676-1030

El Cajon Office:

1870 Cordell Court, #107
El Cajon, CA 92020
Phone: (619) 596-3136
Fax: (619) 596-3140