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SB 52 Testimony 2/24/03

Mr. Chairman and committee members, my name is Craig Kadlub and I'm speaking on behalf of the Clark County School District.

While there's an abundance of anecdotal evidence attesting to the value of the JASON project, a number of formal evaluations also have been conducted at both the national and local levels. The methods of analysis include pre- and post-tests of students, questionnaires, surveys of teachers, students, and administrators, one-on-one interviews, and classroom observations.

The New York-based Education Development Center studied Jason sites in 8 states and noted in their concluding remarks that in cases where a control group was used, JASON students showed higher gains over time than non-Jason students and demonstrated an increased capacity to understand scientific concepts and draw conclusions based on data.

At the local level, Delphi Research of Nevada was retained to evaluate Jason and found that, "The Jason Project in CCSD is valued by teachers and administrators and by involved community members as a useful instructional program for teaching the science curriculum." It's important to note here that the Jason curriculum is aligned with national and Nevada standards in science, math, technology, geography, and language arts.

Jason has been a valuable and enjoyable component of our district's academic program and has personalized the process of scientific inquiry for many students. We thank Senator Schneider for bringing this bill forward, and are please to support SB52.

Thank you.