

Opposition Testimony on HB272
Submitted by: Sheri Cody

To the Chairman, Ranking Member, and Members of the Committee,
Thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to
HB 272.

As a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthesiologist in Stark County, I am
urging you to vote no on HB 51.

As a CRNA I have seen the devastation of gunshot wounds. According
to a study of 23,000 John's Hopkins Trauma Patients, gun injuries
require 10 X the units of blood to treat compared to other types of
trauma, and patients who have been shot are 14 times more likely to
die than other trauma patients.

There has been an increase in recent murders and shootings of judges,
family members of a judge, prosecutors, and other government officials.
These instances of violence include shooters who were lawyers,
litigants, and a divorced spouse unhappy with a judge's custody
decision, who could have qualified for an Ohio concealed carry permit.
Unfavorable court decisions sometimes push susceptible individuals
into acts of gun violence. If such individuals already possess a concealed
carry license, or plot to obtain one to carry out a revenge shooting, HB
272 will enable them to carry out their plan.

We have seen tragic examples that demonstrate why even those with
concealed carry permits should not be permitted to carry concealed
firearms into mixed use government/courtroom buildings whether court
is in session or not. The Virginia Beach Municipal Center is just such a
mixed-use government/courtroom building.

The Virginia Beach Police report stated that:

On May 31, 2019, concealed handgun permit holder DeWayne
Craddock, 40, shot and killed 12 people and wounded five others
at the Virginia Beach Municipal Center before being shot and
killed by police. Craddock was an employee of the city's public
utilities department and according to the FBI, "[W]as motivated

by perceived workplace grievances, which he fixated on for years.” The FBI found that Craddock’s perceived grievances dated back to 2014 and, “Violence was viewed by the shooter as a way to reconcile this conflict and restore his perverted view of justice.” In 2017, Craddock finalized a divorce from his wife and began having performance issues at work. According to a report by the Virginia Beach Police Department, “The suspect’s ex-wife observed that the suspect exhibited signs of paranoia and relayed that he believed others were talking about him.” Craddock legally purchased six firearms from 2006 to 2019 and also obtained a concealed carry permit and license for a firearm silencer. (1)

Any consideration of whether the court is “in session” as being the *only* time weapons should be prohibited in mixed use government/courtroom buildings is nonsensical. Under HB 272, an Ohio concealed carry permit holder (like concealed carry licensee DeWayne Craddock) can legally walk through security (with his concealed carry permit) into a government office building while court is “not in session” and then execute his victims, including those in a courtroom that later comes “into session” after the shooter has legally entered.

I urge you to vote no on House Bill 272.

Respectfully submitted,

Sheri Cody, RN, BSN, CRNA

Resources:

1. *May 31, 2019 Final Investigation Summary Report,” Virginia Beach Police Department, March 2021.*