

Testimony on House Bill 272 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
House Government Oversight Committee  
October 31, 2023  
Submitted by: Tony D'Ambrosio

Chair Peterson Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Member Humphrey, and members of the House Government Oversight Committee, thank you for allowing me to present this testimony in opposition to House Bill 272.

My name is Tony D'Ambrosio and I reside in Ohio House District 28. My educational and professional background is in healthcare and public health. I have a great concern for the health, safety, security, and overall well-being of Ohio's citizens.

HB 272 of the 135<sup>th</sup> General Assembly creates an exception to the prohibition on illegal conveyance, possession, or control of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance into a building or structure in which a courtroom is located for concealed handgun licensees and qualifying adults. It specifies the requirements that must be met in order for the exception to apply. Under current law, the offense of "illegal conveyance of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance into a courthouse" prohibits a person from knowingly conveying or attempting to convey a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance into a courthouse or another building or structure in which a courtroom is located. Under current law, the offense of illegal possession or control of a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance in a courthouse prohibits a person from knowingly possessing or having under the person's control a deadly weapon or dangerous ordnance in a courthouse or in another building or structure in which a courtroom is located.

HB 272 is an unnecessary, reckless, dangerous bill allowing individuals to carry concealed weapons into mixed use government buildings that have a courtroom but are not a courthouse. The language stipulates this would be permitted when court hearings are not being conducted but creates several problems with implementing such a practice. When court is not in session, the judges, magistrates and court employees are still potentially in the building and their safety would be at risk. The safety of government staff in their offices in the shared building is also being compromised. Why is this bill necessary? What need does it fill? How does it benefit the citizens of Ohio? The Ohio General Assembly continues to pass legislation that is an affront to citizen safety and responsible firearms ownership. Guns in all places at all times and in many cases carried by individuals without the proper training undermines the intent of the second amendment. I am opposed to this bill and ask that you oppose it as well.