

Government Oversight Committee
Opponent Testimony HB 272
From Penny Hubbard

To the Chairman, Ranking Members, and Committee Members, thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My husband and I lived in Clinton, Ohio, a rural community, for years and raised all three of our daughters there. We recently built a new house in Medina, Oh. All three girls now work or teach in public schools in N.E. Ohio. We all vote consistently and the whole family feels the same way about gun violence in Ohio.

I oppose HB 272 because it is dangerous for women and children.

This bill would allow people in certain towns/townships, etc. to carry a deadly weapon into multipurpose government buildings where courtrooms exist, as long as court is not in session. I'm particularly worried that women and children may then face their abuser, who could be legally carrying a gun, when they appear at hearings related to abuse, divorce, custody battles, or sexual violence. I know the bill excludes carrying during the time court is actually in session but what about before and after the hearing? Few people would wait until the hearing has actually started to show up at the building! Hallways, restrooms, and waiting areas would be a perfect spot for an abuser to intimidate his partner before the hearing. Or worse yet, actually shoot her.

The bill also places judges, attorneys and clerks at UNNECESSARY risk as they may spend many hours in their offices in the same building, out-side of court hours. Finally, government workers in non-legal offices may share the same building. They and members of the community who come in to take care of government related tasks, like paying their water bill, getting a marriage license, paying taxes, etc will be coming in contact with people carrying a deadly weapon. This is UNFAIR to all these groups! I urge you to reject HB 272.

So please, protect Ohio women and children. Our rights matter just as much as the 2nd Amendment. Reject HB 272!

Thank you,

Penny Hubbard