

*My name is Dr. Amrita Karve, cardiologist and Co-Director of the Women's Heart Program at Mount Carmel Health system in Columbus, Ohio. As a physician and public health advocate, I personally oppose House Bill 272.*

*House Bill 272 creates an environment of lawlessness in judicial institutions where safety is most sacred. With the implementation of House Bill 272, we would see many more events such as the January 6 Capitol riot, or the armed protests in Lansing, Michigan in 2020. The language stipulates this would be permitted when court hearings are not being conducted, but creates a number of problems of how to implement such a practice. Most alarming of all is that when court is not in session, the judges, magistrates and court employees are still in the building performing their jobs and their safety would be at risk, such as the Capitol Riot that occurred on January 6th. Also the safety of government staff in their offices in the shared building (such as the county auditor or county commissioners) is being compromised.*

*You all have the right to feel safe at work, especially in an institution that is dedicated to justice. The potential for gun violence to overtake or threaten judicial institutions is a step towards a dangerous environment in which criminals, domestic and international terrorist organizations, organized crime members, can menace and terrorize the institutions which we hold most sacred. Fortunately, the United States has generally not been affected by these problems since security at United States legal institutions has traditionally been so high. Please keep it that way.*