

Testimony on HB272
Ohio House Government Oversight Committee
Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Submitted by:
Martin Kohn

Chair Peterson, Vice Chair Thomas, Ranking Minority Leader Humphrey, and members of the committee, thank you for considering my written testimony in opposition to HB272.

If HB272 becomes law, concealed carry of guns would be allowed in certain 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 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. Also the safety of government staff in their offices in the shared building (such as the county auditor or county commissioners) is being compromised.

Allowing guns, especially concealed guns, in buildings with courts would further establish the utter disrespect for the rule of law by those who would support such a measure.

The majority of Ohioans are law-abiding citizens who want to live together in peace. This bill is designed to increase fear, social disruption, violence, and deaths.

Please VOTE NO on HB 272, a dangerous and uncivil bill.