



For Immediate Release

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**American Restroom Association Celebrating World Toilet Day
(November 19th); Remembers Accomplishments**



Oxford, MS – The American Restroom Association (ARA),

celebrating its 15th year of existence, is also celebrating the United Nation’s World Toilet Day, officially occurring on November 19th every year (<https://www.worldtoiletday.info/>). This year’s theme is “Leaving No One Behind.”

Steven Soifer, Ph.D., co-founder and president of the ARA, said: “This is truly an important day, recognizing the world-wide need for good sanitation, public hygiene, and adequate toilets for everyone’s needs.” According to the World Health Organization and UNICEF, 1 in 3 people in across the world doesn’t have proper toilets.”

The American Restroom Association (www.americanrestroom.org) was founded in 2004. It serves as the USA’s advocacy organization for “clean, safe and well-designed public restrooms.” In the past 15 year, the ARA has successfully advocated for enforcement of, and revisions to, the International Plumbing Code through the International Code Council, delivered testimony before the U.S. Congress on behalf of “potty parity;” made sure everyone knows they have the right to use business establishment’s bathrooms; advocated for the construction of more gender neutral, single-user toilet facilities and family restrooms; promoted current restroom locator apps and websites; and attended more than half a dozen annual summits of the World Toilet Organization (WTO) (worldtoilet.org). Dr. Soifer has also given a TedX talk entitled “Do Public Restrooms Make you Nervous: You’re Not Alone”

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8I5liK2Ly2g>). Jack Sim, the founder of the WTO, is currently the topic of a film showing across the country called “Mr. Toilet the World’s #2 Man” (<https://www.aljazeera.com/programmes/witness/2019/11/toilet-su-poo-hero-global-sanitation-191110104643485.html?fbclid=IwAR0bJHsIK8klRtl5x3I50TzzevmMt-LPAX3xq>). From November 17th-19th, the World Toilet Summit is going on in Sao Paulo, Brazil (<https://www.susana.org/en/news-and-events/sanitation-events/upcoming-events/details/269>).

The ARA collaborates with the following organizations and initiatives: The International Paruresis Association (paruresis.org), PHLUSH (Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human) (phlush.org), Project CLEAN (projectclean.us), the Simon Foundation for Continence (simonfoundation.org), and the La Jolla Initiative.

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