



American Restroom Association

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For Immediate Release
(November 18, 2021)

Signing of Infrastructure Bill Gives Hope for America's Public Restrooms

Bill signing comes ahead of annual celebration of World Toilet Day, November 19

Catonsville, Maryland, USA (November 18, 2021) — The American Restroom Association (ARA), the USA's advocate for the availability of clean, safe, well-designed public restrooms, applauds two pieces of good news this week: the signing of the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill into law this past Monday and the annual celebration of World Toilet Day this Friday, November 19.

ARA President and Co-Founder, Dr. Steven Soifer, Ph. D., LCSW-C is hopeful the needed improvements in accommodations for the traveling public will now become a reality. "Think about it: With \$215 billion to be invested in how Americans travel from point A to point B, the restroom needs of those Americans must be taken into account. It is time that the US take the lead in providing world class accommodations for its traveling citizens."

The apt timing of World Toilet Day brings this investment into the spotlight. Since 2013, the United Nations has observed November 19th as World Toilet Day to draw the world's attention to the importance of accessible toilets and their role in improving hygiene and health around the world. Soifer added, "As we build this new infrastructure, designers can now put into practice what we have learned over the past 50 years about making our public spaces more inclusive. Building single-occupancy all-gender toilet compartments – where appropriate – can save up to 25% in space needed and in cost. In addition, infrastructure funds must be available to ensure that all Americans can have their needs met regardless of gender identity, caregiver needs, and digestive diseases. The ARA believes that access to clean, safe, and well-designed public restrooms is a human right and necessary for full participation in civic life. The conjunction of World Toilet Day and this bill signing shows that this is our 'moon shot' for better public restrooms."

About American Restroom Association (ARA): a nonprofit founded in 2004, ARA advocates for the availability of clean, safe, and well-designed public restrooms. Accomplishments include successfully advocating for enforcement of and revisions to the International Plumbing Code, congressional testimony on gender equity in public restrooms in US Federal Buildings, and representing the USA in educating international audiences at Summits and Conferences of the World Toilet Organization (WTO). ARA brings together a multidisciplinary and independent team from architecture, engineering, education, academia, and social work. Learn more at <http://www.americanrestroom.org>.

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