

# American Restroom A s s o c i a t i o n

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**American Restroom Association identifies restroom availability as key U.S. public health issue**

**Baltimore, MD. November 1, 2007** Asserting that restroom availability is fundamental to public health, the American Restroom Association today called on federal officials to implement sound policy on restrooms. In a presentation at the World Toilet Summit in Delhi, India, the organization demonstrated that it is impossible for many Americans to use toilets or wash their hands when they are away from home. The group demanded that U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provide regulatory guidance on restroom availability in accordance with its mandate to protect the health of all Americans.

In their research, the American Restroom Association cited numerous examples of government-supported schools that prevent students from using restrooms, transit systems that put amenities off limits to passengers and airlines that deny passengers use of toilets during flights.

This lack of public availability of restrooms is a problem that can be traced to policy gaps at the national level. Two federal departments are mandated to set policy on restrooms and health. One has acted but the other has not.

The U.S. Department of Labor regulates workplace restrooms throughout the individual states through the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration, or OSHA. OSHA provides regulations that ensure employees “will not suffer the adverse health effects that can result if toilets are not available” when needed. This OSHA protection, however, is limited to workplace. Employees have protection but ordinary citizens do not.

The agency with authority to protect the health of all Americans is the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. But it has not acted to address the adverse health effects of restroom non-availability.

In their Call to Action, the American Restroom Association is asking citizens to act through their representatives in Congress to ensure that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services spells out public health requirements related to toilets. No new legislation is needed, only regulatory compliance with an existing mandate.

The American Restroom Association is 501 c3 registered national non-profit that advocates for the availability of clean, safe, well designed public restrooms. It is a member of the World Toilet Organization, which is sponsoring the World Toilet Summit. Additional information is at [www.americanrestroom.org](http://www.americanrestroom.org) ###