Whereas, when surveyed, 1 in 5 reported experiencing a public bowel/urinary accident, and over half said they or a relative struggled to find public restrooms in the past week;¹ and

Whereas, the US has only 8 public toilets per 100,000 people, far fewer than Iceland (56), Switzerland (46), and New Zealand (45);² and

Whereas, public restrooms are important to sanitation and infection control, with limited access directly tied to recent hepatitis A outbreaks in San Diego and Philadelphia;³-⁹ and

Whereas, people who are unhoused, especially those who menstruate, are affected by restricted restroom access due to inability to pay, and public urination or defecation can lead to criminal and civil penalties, including lifelong sex offender registration homelessness;¹⁰-¹⁴ and

Whereas, several states and municipalities’ Restroom Access Acts (RAAs) require business to provide restrooms to customers with permanent bowel-related conditions, but these laws are minimally enforced and exclude many other individuals with medical needs;¹⁴ and

Whereas, public restrooms are often inequitable in size in number for women and transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse individuals, despite different usage than cis men;¹⁵-¹⁷ and

Whereas, women often need restrooms more than cis men due to menstruation and higher rates of Crohn’s disease, irritable bowel syndrome, cystitis, and incontinence;¹⁸-²² and

Whereas, while restroom parity laws in numerous states and municipalities have increased the ratio of women’s to men’s stalls and improved access, they often do not apply retroactively and do not address parity for transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse individuals;²³ and

Whereas, transgender people are up to 6 times more likely to avoid public restrooms due to discrimination, harassment, and being questioned for their gender;²⁴ and

Whereas, gender-inclusive bathrooms have demonstrated reductions in wait times for women by over 60 seconds while increasing wait times for men by only 20 seconds;²⁵ and

Whereas, several cities have passed ordinances requiring new buildings to have gender-neutral bathrooms and incentivizing construction of new public restrooms;²⁶-³⁰ therefore be it

RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support access to clean, accessible, and permanent public restrooms that, at minimum, contain a toilet and sink, regardless of any identifying characteristics such as gender identity, appearance, employment status, or commercial status (New HOD Policy); and be it further
RESOLVED, that our AMA support parity in restroom access by gender identity, including increasing the number of female and gender-neutral bathrooms available in both new and existing buildings. (New HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than $1,000

Received: 4/19/2024

REFERENCES

12. RCW 70A.200.060.


**RELEVANT AMA Policy**

**H-65.964 Access to Basic Human Services for Transgender Individuals**

Our AMA: (1) opposes policies preventing transgender individuals from accessing basic human services and public facilities in line with one’s gender identity, including, but not limited to, the use of restrooms; and (2) will advocate for the creation of policies that promote social equality and safe access to basic human services and public facilities for transgender individuals according to one’s gender identity. [Res. 010, A-17]

**D-90.992 Preserving Protections of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**

1. Our AMA supports legislative changes to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, to educate state and local government officials and property owners on strategies for promoting access to persons with a disability.

2. Our AMA opposes legislation amending the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, that would increase barriers for disabled persons attempting to file suit to challenge a violation of their civil rights.

3. Our AMA will develop educational tools and strategies to help physicians make their offices more accessible to persons with disabilities, consistent with the Americans With Disabilities Act as well as any applicable state laws. [Res. 220, I-17]