

1 Russ W. Ercolani (SBN 240493)
 2 Email: Russ@ErcolaniLawGroup.com
 3 Melissa L. Emerson (SBN 343982)
 4 Email: Melissa@ErcolaniLawGroup.com
 5 ERCOLANI LAW GROUP
 6 31225 La Baya Dr., Suite 113
 7 Westlake Village, CA 91362
 8 Telephone: +1 805 338 6880
 9 Facsimile: +1 805 367 4454

Attorneys for Plaintiffs

10 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
 11 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

13 ROBERT SETSER, an individual; and
 14 BONNIE SETSER, an individual;

15 Plaintiffs,

16 v.

17 KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS N.V., a Dutch
 18 corporation; PHILIPS NORTH
 19 AMERICA LLC, a Delaware Limited
 20 Liability Company; PHILIPS HOLDING
 21 USA INC., a Delaware corporation;
 22 PHILIPS RS NORTH AMERICA LLC,
 23 a Delaware Limited Liability Company;
 24 PHILIPS RS NORTH AMERICA
 25 HOLDING CORPORATION, a
 26 Delaware Corporation; and DOES 1
 27 through 100 inclusive;

28 Defendants.

CASE NO:

COMPLAINT FOR DAMAGES

1. Negligence
2. Strict Products Liability—*Design Defect*
3. Strict Products Liability—*Manufacturing Defect*
4. Strict Products Liability—*Failure to Warn*
5. Breach of Express Warranty
6. Breach of Implied Warranties
7. Fraudulent Misrepresentation
8. Fraud by Omission
9. Negligent Misrepresentation
10. Loss of Consortium

DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL

1 Plaintiffs Robert Setser and Bonnie Setser (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), for
2 their complaint against Defendants Koninklijke Philips N.V. (“Royal Philips”),
3 Philips North America LLC (“Philips NA”), Phillips Holding USA Inc. (“Philips
4 Holding”), Philips RS North America LLC (“Philips RS”), and Philips RS North
5 America Holding Corporation (“Philips RS Holding”) (collectively, “Philips” or
6 the “Defendants”), allege as follows:
7

8 **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

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10
11 1. Jurisdiction of this Court is based on Diversity of Citizenship and the
12 amount in controversy is well in excess of the jurisdictional limit of \$75,000.00. 28
13 U.S.C. § 1332(a)(1).
14

15 2. Venue is proper in this judicial District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b),
16 28 U.S.C. § 1391(c), and 18 U.S.C. § 1965, because Defendants transact business in
17 this District, a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff’s
18 claims occurred in this District, and Plaintiff resides in this District.
19

20
21 3. The Court has personal jurisdiction over Defendants because
22 Defendants conduct substantial business in this District, and the events giving rise
23 to Plaintiff’s claims arise out of and relate to Defendants’ contacts with this
24 District. Defendants Philips NA, Philips Holding, Philips RS, and Philips RS
25 Holding are controlled by their parent Royal Philips. Defendants’ affiliations with
26
27

1 this District are so continuous and systematic as to render them essentially at home
2 in the forum State. Further, Defendants have transacted business, maintained
3 substantial contacts, purposefully targeted consumers and medical professionals for
4 sales of its devices, and/or committed overt acts in furtherance of the unlawful acts
5 alleged in this Complaint in this District, as well as throughout the United States.
6

7
8 The unlawful acts of Defendants have been directed at, targeted, and have had the
9 effect of causing injury to persons residing in, located in, or doing business in this
10 District, as well as throughout the United States.
11

12 THE PARTIES

13
14 4. Plaintiff Robert Setser is, and at all times herein mentioned, was, a
15 resident of the State of California.

16
17 5. Plaintiff Bonnie Setser is, and at all times herein mentioned, was, a
18 resident of the State of California.

19
20 6. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendant
21 Koninklijke Philips N.V. (“Royal Philips”) is a Dutch multinational corporation with
22 its principal place of business located in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

23
24 7. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendant
25 Philips North America LLC (“Philips NA”) is a Delaware limited liability company
26

1 with its principal place of business located at 222 Jacobs Street, Floor 3, Cambridge,
2 Massachusetts 02141. Philips NA is a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Philips.
3

4 8. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendant
5 Phillips Holding USA, Inc. (“Philips Holding”), is a Delaware corporation with its
6 principal place of business located at 222 Jacobs Street, Floor 3, Cambridge,
7 Massachusetts 02141. Philips Holding is a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal Philips.
8

9 9. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendant
10 Philips RS North America LLC (“Philips RS”) is a Delaware Limited Liability
11 Company with its principal place of business located at 6501 Living Place,
12 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15206. Philips RS is a wholly owned subsidiary of Royal
13 Philips. Philips RS was formerly operated under the business name Respironics, Inc.
14 (“Respironics”).
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18 10. Plaintiffs are informed and believe, and thereon allege, that Defendant
19 Philips RS North America Holding Corporation (“Philips RS Holding”) is a
20 Delaware corporation with its principal place of business located at 222 Jacobs Street,
21 Floor 3, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02141. Philips RS Holding is a wholly owned
22 subsidiary of Royal Philips.
23
24

25 11. Based upon information and belief, Defendant Royal Philips is the
26 parent company of the Philips Group of healthcare technology businesses, including
27

1 Connected Care businesses focusing on Sleep & Respiratory Care. Royal Philips
2 holds directly or indirectly 100% of its subsidiaries Philips NA, Philips Holding,
3 Philips RS, and Philips RS Holding.
4

5 12. Based upon information and belief, Royal Philips controls Philips NA,
6 Philips Holding, Philips RS, and Philips RS Holding in the manufacturing, selling,
7 distributing, and supplying of the recalled CPAP, Bi-Level PAP, and mechanical
8 ventilator devices.
9

10
11 13. Defendants Royal Philips, Philips NA, Philips Holding, Philips RS, and
12 Philips RS Holding shall collectively be referred to as “Philips”.
13

14 14. Plaintiffs are ignorant of the true names and capacities of defendants
15 sued herein as DOES 1 through 100, inclusive, and therefore sue these defendants
16 by such fictitious names pursuant to *California Code of Civil Procedure* (“C.C.P.”)
17 §474. Plaintiffs will amend the complaint to allege their true names and capacities
18 when ascertained. Plaintiffs are informed and believe and thereon allege that each
19 of the fictitiously named defendants is negligently responsible in some manner for
20 the occurrences herein alleged, and that Plaintiffs’ losses as herein alleged were
21 proximately caused by such negligence.
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FACTS

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3 15. Plaintiffs bring this action for injuries caused from the use of a
4 Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machine manufactured by Philips,
5 which contained polyester-based polyurethane sound abatement foam (“PE-PUR
6 Foam”).
7

8 16. On April 26, 2021, Philips made a public announcement disclosing it
9 had determined there were risks that the PE-PUR Foam used in certain CPAP, Bi-
10 Level PAP, and mechanical ventilator devices it manufactured may degrade or off-
11 gas under certain circumstances. On April 26, 2021, in its Quarterly Report for Q1
12 2021, Philips disclosed for the first time, under a section entitled “Regulatory
13 Update,” that device user reports had led to a discovery that the type of PE-PUR
14 Foam Philips used to minimize noise in several CPAP and Bi-Level PAP
15 respirators and mechanical ventilators posed health risks to its users.
16
17

18
19 17. On June 14, 2021, seven weeks later, Royal Philips issued a recall in
20 the United States of its CPAP, Bi-Level PAP, and mechanical ventilator devices
21 containing PE-PUR Foam (the “Recalled Devices”), because Philips had
22 determined that: (a) the PE-PUR Foam was at risk for degradation into particles
23 that may enter the devices’ pathway and be ingested or inhaled by users, and (b)
24
25
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1 the PE-PUR Foam may off-gas certain chemicals during operation (the “Recall
2 Notice”).

3
4 18. Philips reported that lab analysis of the degraded foam reveals the
5 presence of harmful chemicals, including Toluene Diamine (“TDA”), Toluene
6 Diisocyanate (“TDI”), and Diethylene Glycol (“DEG”).
7

8 19. In its Recall Notice, Philips disclosed that the potential risks of
9 particulate exposure to users of these devices include: irritation (skin, eye, and
10 respiratory tract), inflammatory response, headache, asthma, adverse effects to
11 other organs (e.g., kidneys and liver) and toxic carcinogenic effects. The potential
12 risks of chemical exposure due to off-gassing of PE-PUR Foam in these devices
13 include: headache/dizziness, irritation (eyes, nose, respiratory tract, skin),
14 hypersensitivity, nausea/vomiting, toxic and carcinogenic effects.
15
16
17

18 20. Philips disclosed that the absence of visible particles in the devices
19 does not mean that PE-PUR Foam breakdown has not already begun.
20

21 21. Philips further disclosed in its Recall Notice that these issues can
22 result in serious injury which can be life-threatening, cause permanent impairment,
23 and/or require medical intervention to preclude permanent impairment.
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1 22. Philips reported to physicians that PE-PUR Foam particles “may
2 cause irritation and airway inflammation, and this may be particularly important
3 for patients with underlying lung diseases or reduced cardiopulmonary reserve.”
4

5 23. Further, Philips reported that “based on lab testing and evaluations, it
6 may be possible that these potential health risks could result in a wide range of
7 potential patient impact, from transient potential injuries, symptoms and
8 complications, as well as possibly serious injury which can be life threatening or
9 cause permanent impairment or require medical intervention to preclude permanent
10 impairment.”
11
12

13 24. Prior to receipt of notice of the recall, Plaintiff Robert Setser
14 purchased a Philips Respironics DreamStation Auto CPAP device, which he used
15 nightly from the date of purchase and continued to use.
16
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18 25. The Philips Recalled Devices include the Philips Respironics
19 DreamStation device purchased by Plaintiff.
20

21 26. Prior to issuing the Recall Notice, Philips received complaints
22 regarding the presence of black debris/particles within the airpath circuit of its
23 devices (extending from the device outlet, humidifier, tubing, and mask). Philips
24 also received reports of headaches, upper airway irritation, cough, chest pressure
25 and sinus infection from users of these devices.
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1 27. Philips recommended that patients using the recalled CPAP and Bi-
2 Level PAP devices immediately discontinue using their devices and that patients
3 using the recalled ventilators for life-sustaining therapy consult with their
4 physicians regarding alternative ventilator options.
5

6 28. Sometime in August 2021, Plaintiff Robert Setser received a
7 notification advising him that his Philips Respironics DreamStation CPAP device
8 was subject to a recall due to the presence of a dangerous PE-PUR Foam that could
9 cause him to suffer from adverse health effects.
10

11 29. On September 3, 2021, Plaintiff Robert Setser was diagnosed with
12 oropharyngeal cancer.
13

14 30. At no time prior to its Regulatory Update on April 26, 2021, did
15 Philips disclose to purchasers or users of the Recalled Devices that the PE-PUR
16 Foam contained therein may off-gas or degrade upon use. Similarly, prior to the
17 Update, Philips did not disclose any health risks associated with use of the
18 Recalled Devices.
19

20 31. Defendants have not disclosed when they first discovered or received
21 reports from users of their Sleep & Respiratory Care devices “regarding the
22 presence of black debris/particles within the airpath circuit (extending from the
23 device outlet, humidifier, tubing, and mask).”
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1 were first reported to Defendants or discovered by Defendants through April 26,
2 2021, the Recalled Devices have been rendered completely worthless or, at the
3
4 very least, have been substantially diminished in value.

5 38. The manuals accompanying Plaintiff Robert Setser's device did not
6
7 contain any language or warnings of health risks associated with use of the device,
8 including irritation (skin, eye, and respiratory tract), inflammatory response,
9
10 headache, asthma, adverse effects to other organs (e.g., kidneys and liver) and
11
12 toxic carcinogenic effects.

13 39. Had Defendants informed Plaintiff Robert Setser of these risks, he
14
15 would not have purchased or used the Recalled Device.

16 40. Without knowing of the health risks associated with use of the
17
18 Recalled Device, Plaintiff Robert Sester used the Recalled Device regularly to treat
19
20 sleep apnea.

21 41. Plaintiff Robert Setser has incurred substantial expenses for medical
22
23 care. In addition, Plaintiff underwent surgery, experienced painful cancer
24
25 treatments, a globus sensation, voice changes, and tinnitus due to his use of the
26
27 Philips' recalled machine. Since being notified of the recall, Plaintiff has
28
29 experienced anxiety concerning the serious health risks he is facing from possible

1 exposure to off-gassed or degraded PE-PUR Foam in the Recalled machines,
2 including the machine used by Plaintiff Robert Setser.
3

4 42. Plaintiff Robert Sester seeks to recover damages based on, inter alia,
5 Philips' negligence, products liability, breach of express warranty, breach of
6 implied warranties, misrepresentations, and omissions, in connection with its
7 manufacture, marketing and sales of devices containing PE-PUR Foam.
8

9 43. Plaintiff Bonnie Setser seeks to recover damages based on her loss of
10 consortium due to her husband's injuries.
11

12 44. In addition, Plaintiff Robert Setser seeks medical monitoring damages
13 for his use of the Philips' devices identified in this Complaint, since he is at risk of
14 suffering from serious injury as a result of his use of the Philips' devices, including
15 skin, nose, eye, and respiratory tract irritation, inflammatory response, headache,
16 asthma, adverse effects to other organs, such as the kidneys and liver, and toxic
17 carcinogenic effects.
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20 45. As a direct and proximate result of Philips' conduct, Plaintiffs Robert
21 Setser and Bonnie Setser have suffered injury, damage and loss.
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FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION

Negligence

(by Plaintiff ROBERT SETSER, against all Defendants and Does 1 through 100, inclusive)

46. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and alleges each and every one of the allegations contained in the preceding and foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

47. Defendants had a duty to individuals, including the Plaintiff, to use reasonable care in designing, manufacturing, marketing, labeling, packaging and selling the recalled machines, including the Recalled Devices.

48. Defendants were negligent in failing to use reasonable care as described herein in designing and manufacturing, the recalled machines, as well as the machine that Plaintiff purchased and used. Defendants breached their aforementioned duty by:

- a. Failing to design the recalled machines so as to avoid an unreasonable and increased risk of harm of cancer and other injuries in users;
- b. Including in the design of the recalled machines flawed polyurethane PE-PUR sound abatement foam that could break down, flake off and/or chemicalize and infiltrate the device's air pathway while the user is sleeping, exposing them to increased and unnecessary risk of cancer as well as other injuries;

1 c. Manufacturing certain Philips machines, including the recalled
2 machines, with a specific lot and/or lots of flawed polyurethane PEP-
3 UR sound abatement foam that could break down, flake off and/or
4 chemicalize and infiltrate the device's air pathway while the user is
5 sleeping, exposing them to increased and unnecessary risk of cancer
6 as well as other injuries;
7

8
9 d. Otherwise negligently or carelessly designing, manufacturing,
10 marketing, labeling, packaging and/or selling the Recalled Devices.
11

12 49. Defendants also negligently failed to warn or instruct the Plaintiff in
13 the following manners:
14

15 a. The recalled machine's flawed polyurethane PE-PUR sound
16 abatement foam propensities to break down, flake off and/or
17 chemicalize and infiltrate the device's air pathway while the user is
18 sleeping, exposing them to increased and unnecessary risk of cancer
19 as well as other injuries;
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21
22 b. The recalled machine's polyurethane PE-PUR sound abatement foam
23 propensities to degradation, fragmentation and/or chemicalization;
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- c. The rate and manner in which the polyurethane PE-PUR sound abatement foam would break down, flake off and/or chemicalize and infiltrate the device's air pathway while the user is sleeping;
- d. The risk of chronic inflammation resulting from use of the recalled machines;
- e. The risk of chronic infections resulting from the recalled machines;
- f. The risk of cancers from exposure to the foam;
- g. The need for corrective or revision surgery to adjust or remove cancerous tumors and/or nodules as a result of usage of the recalled machines;
- h. The severity of complications that could arise as a result of implantation of the recalled machines;

50. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff Robert Setser has experienced significant mental and physical pain and suffering, has sustained permanent injury, has undergone medical treatment and will likely undergo further medical treatment and procedures, has suffered financial or economic loss, including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and expenses, lost income, and other damages.

1 51. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, and
2 each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, and requests
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4 compensatory damages, punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit,
5 attorneys' fees, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.
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7 **SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION**

8 ***Strict Products Liability—Design Defect***

9 ***(by Plaintiff ROBERT SETSER, against all Defendants and Does 1 through 100,***
10 ***inclusive)***

11 52. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and alleges each and every one of
12 the allegations contained in the preceding and foregoing paragraphs of this
13
14 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

15 53. The recalled machine used by Plaintiff was not reasonably safe for its
16 intended uses and was defective as described herein with respect to its design. As
17
18 previously stated, the machine's design defects include, but are not limited to:

- 19 a. The use of polyurethane PE-PUR sound abatement foam in the
20 recalled machines and the immune reaction that results from such
21 material, causing adverse reactions and injuries;
22
23 b. Failing to design the recalled machines so as to avoid an unreasonable
24 and increased risk of harm of cancer and other injuries in users;
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1 c. Including in the design of the recalled machines flawed polyurethane
2 PE-PUR sound abatement foam that could break down, flake off
3 and/or chemicalize and infiltrate the device's air pathway while the
4 user is sleeping, exposing them to increased and unnecessary risk of
5 cancer as well as other injuries;
6

7
8 d. Failing to use alternatively available sound abatement materials and/or
9 foams in the recalled machines, such as plastic, silicone, or rubber,
10 which would not break down, flake off and/or chemicalize and
11 infiltrate the device's air pathway while the user is sleeping;
12

13
14 e. Otherwise negligently or carelessly designing, manufacturing,
15 marketing, labeling, packaging and/or selling the recalled machines.
16

17 54. At all times, the use of the recalled machines, as well as Plaintiff's use
18 of the Recalled Device (and its components, such as the facemask) was at all times
19 foreseeable and foreseen by Defendants as it was used by Plaintiff in the manner
20 intended by Defendants.
21

22 55. The Recalled Device used by Plaintiff, was defective in its design in
23 that it failed to perform as safely as a reasonable consumer would expect when
24 used in an intended or reasonably foreseeable manner.
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1 56. The Recalled Devices, including the Recalled Device used by
2 Plaintiff, are further defective in that the risks of danger inherent in its design
3 outweigh the benefits, in that the gravity of danger posed by the design was great,
4 the likelihood that such danger would cause injury was substantial, there were
5 feasible, safer alternative designs known to Defendants at the time of manufacture,
6 the financial costs of an improved design was minor, and there were likely no
7 adverse consequences to the product, or to the user, that would result from an
8 alternative design.
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12 57. Defendants, and each of them, knew that the Recalled Devices,
13 including the Plaintiff's Recalled Device, and the component parts of these
14 CPAP/BIPAP machines would be purchased and used without inspection for
15 defects in the design of the machine or its masks/attachments.
16
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18 58. The Recalled Devices, including the Plaintiff's Recalled Device, and
19 the component parts of these machines were defective when they left the control of
20 each of these Defendants.
21

22 59. As a direct and proximate result of the Recalled Devices, including
23 Plaintiff's Recalled Device, and the aforementioned defects as described herein,
24 Plaintiff Robert Setser has experienced significant mental and physical pain and
25 suffering, has sustained permanent injury, has undergone medical treatment and
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1 64. At all times, the use of the Recalled Devices, as well as Plaintiff's use
2 of the Recalled Device (and its components, such as the facemask) was at all times
3 foreseeable and foreseen by Defendants as it was used by Plaintiff in the manner
4 intended by Defendants.
5

6 65. The Recalled Devices were defective at the time of their manufacture,
7 development, production, testing, inspection, endorsement, sale and distribution,
8 and at the time they left the possession of the Defendants, in that, and not by way
9 of limitation, the products differed from the Defendants' intended result and
10 intended design and specifications, and from other ostensibly identical units of the
11 same product line.
12

13 66. Defendants, and each of them, knew or should have known of the
14 defective nature of the recalled machines, including (among other things), that the
15 PE-PUR foam used in the recalled machine's component parts was prone to
16 flaking, chemicalization, disintegration, that it could enter the user's airways while
17 they slept, and created an unreasonably high risk while in use, and would
18 foreseeably result in injury or death to the public, purchasers, and/or consumers.
19

20 67. The Defendants, and each of them, knew or should have known of the
21 defective nature of the Recalled Devices, and the component parts of these
22 CPAP/BIPAP machines, including among other things, that the PE-PUR foam
23

1 used in the recalled machine's component parts was prone to flaking,
2 chemicalization, disintegration, that it could enter the user's airways while they
3 slept, and created an unreasonably high risk while in use, and would foreseeably
4 result in injury or death to the public, purchasers, and/or consumers.
5

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7 68. Specifically, the Defendants improperly designed the recalled
8 machines by manufacturing certain Philips machines, including the recalled
9 machines, with a specific lot and/or lots of flawed polyurethane PE-PUR sound
10 abatement foam that could break down, flake off and/or chemicalize and infiltrate
11 the device's air pathway while the user is sleeping, exposing them to increased and
12 unnecessary risk of cancer, including cancer, as well as other injuries.
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14

15 69. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of the above-stated
16 negligent acts, Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer injury of a personal
17 and pecuniary nature, including pain and suffering, medical expenses, lost income,
18 and disability.
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21 70. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, and
22 each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, and requests
23 compensatory damages, punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit,
24 attorneys' fees, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.
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FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

Strict Products Liability—Failure to Warn

(by Plaintiff ROBERT SETSER, against all Defendants and Does 1 through 100, inclusive)

71. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and alleges each and every one of the allegations contained in the preceding and foregoing paragraphs of this Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

72. The Recalled Devices, including the Recalled Device used by Plaintiff, were not reasonably safe for their intended uses and were defective as described herein as a matter of law due to its lack of appropriate and necessary warnings. Specifically, Defendants did not provide sufficient or adequate warnings including, but not limited to, the following:

- a. The recalled machine’s flawed polyurethane PE-PUR sound abatement foam propensities to break down, flake off and/or chemicalize and infiltrate the device’s air pathway while the user is sleeping, exposing them to increased and unnecessary risk of cancer, including cancer, as well as other injuries;
- b. The recalled machine’s polyurethane PE-PUR sound abatement foam propensities to degradation, fragmentation and/or chemicalization;

- 1 c. The rate and manner in which the polyurethane PE-PUR sound
- 2 abatement foam would break down, flake off and/or chemicalize and
- 3 infiltrate the device's air pathway while the user is sleeping;
- 4
- 5 d. The risk of chronic inflammation resulting from use of the recalled
- 6 machines;
- 7
- 8 e. The risk of chronic infections resulting from the recalled machines;
- 9
- 10 f. The risk of cancers from exposure to the foam;
- 11
- 12 g. The need for corrective or revision surgery to adjust or remove
- 13 cancerous tumors and/or nodules as a result of usage of the recalled
- 14 machines;
- 15
- 16 h. The severity of complications that could arise as a result of
- 17 implantation of the recalled machines;

18 73. As a direct and proximate result of the recalled machine's
19 aforementioned defects as described herein, Plaintiff Robert Setser has experienced
20 significant mental and physical pain and suffering, has sustained permanent injury,
21 has undergone medical treatment and will likely undergo further medical treatment
22 and procedures, has suffered financial or economic loss, including, but not limited
23 to, obligations for medical services and expenses, and/or lost income, and other
24 damages.
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1 74. Defendants are strictly liable to the Plaintiff for designing,
2 manufacturing marketing, labeling, packaging, and selling a defective device.
3

4 75. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, and
5 each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, and requests
6 compensatory damages, punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit,
7 attorneys' fees, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.
8

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10 **FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 ***Breach of Express Warranty***

12 ***(by Plaintiff ROBERT SETSER, against all Defendants and Does 1 through 100,
13 inclusive)***

14 76. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and alleges each and every one of
15 the allegations contained in the preceding and foregoing paragraphs of this
16 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
17

18 77. Philips marketed and sold the Recalled Device into the stream of
19 commerce with the intent that the Recalled Device would be purchased by Plaintiff
20 and other members of the general public.
21

22 78. Philips expressly warranted, advertised, and represented to Plaintiff
23 that the Recalled Device was safe and appropriate for human use.
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1 intended use and purpose, and unsafe and unsuitable for consumer use as marketed
2 by Philips.
3

4 85. These associated health effects substantially impair the use, value, and
5 safety of the Recalled machines, and rendered the machines worthless.
6

7 86. Philips was aware, or should have been aware, of the toxic or
8 dangerous health effects from the use of the recalled machines, including the
9 machine used by Plaintiff, but nowhere on the package labeling or package inserts
10 or on Philips' websites or other marketing materials did Philips warn Plaintiff he
11 was at risk of developing adverse health effects as a result of the dangerous PE-
12 PUR Foam used in the recalled machines
13
14

15 87. Instead, Philips concealed the dangerous health effects of the PE-PUR
16 Foam used in the recalled machines, including the machine used by Plaintiff and
17 deceptively represented that these products were safe, healthy, and appropriate for
18 use.
19

20
21 88. Philips thus utterly failed to ensure that the material representations
22 they were making to consumers were true.
23

24 89. The adverse health effects associated with use of the recalled
25 machines, including the machine used by Plaintiff existed when they left Philips'
26 possession or control and were sold to Plaintiff.
27

1 90. The dangers associated with use of the recalled machines were
2 undiscoverable by Plaintiff at the time of purchase of the Recalled Device.
3

4 91. As manufacturers, marketers, advertisers, distributors and sellers of
5 the Recalled Devices, Philips had exclusive knowledge and notice of the fact that
6 the Recalled Devices did not conform to the affirmations of fact and promises.
7

8 92. In addition, or in the alternative, to the formation of an express
9 contract, Philips made each of the above-described representations and omissions
10 to induce Plaintiff to rely on such representations and omissions.
11

12 93. Philips' affirmations of fact and promises and its omissions were
13 material, and Plaintiff reasonably relied upon such representations and omissions
14 in purchasing and using the Recalled Device.
15

16 94. All conditions precedent to Philips' liability for its breach of express
17 warranty have been performed by Plaintiff.
18

19 95. Affording Philips an opportunity to cure its breaches of written
20 warranties would be unnecessary and futile here.
21

22 96. Philips was placed on reasonable notice from user reports and its lab
23 testing that the PE-PUR Foam in the Recalled Devices, including the machine used
24 by Plaintiff was unsafe.
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1 97. Philips had ample opportunity either to stop using the PE-PUR Foam
2 or to replace the PE-PUR Foam in the Recalled Devices to make them safe and
3 healthy for use by Plaintiff but failed to do so until now.

4
5 98. As a direct and proximate result of the recalled machines, including
6 the machine's aforementioned defects as described herein, Plaintiff Robert Setser
7 has experienced significant mental and physical pain and suffering, has sustained
8 permanent injury, has undergone medical treatment and will likely undergo further
9 medical treatment and procedures, has suffered financial or economic loss,
10 including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and expenses, and/or
11 lost income, and other damages.

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15 99. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, and
16 each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, and requests
17 compensatory damages, punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit,
18 attorneys' fees, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.

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21 **SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION**
22 ***Breach of Implied Warranty of Merchantability***
23 ***(by Plaintiff ROBERT SETSER, against all Defendants and Does 1 through 100,***
24 ***inclusive)***

25 100. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and alleges each and every one of
26 the allegations contained in the preceding and foregoing paragraphs of this
27 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

1 101. Philips are merchants engaging in the sale of goods to Plaintiff and
2 members of the general public.
3

4 102. There was a direct sale of goods from Philips to Plaintiff, creating
5 privity between Plaintiff and Defendants.
6

7 103. At all times mentioned herein, Philips manufactured or supplied the
8 recalled machines, including the Recalled Device used by Plaintiff, and prior to the
9 time of use, Philips impliedly warranted to Plaintiff that the Recalled Devices,
10 including the machine used by Plaintiff, was of merchantable quality, fit for their
11 ordinary use, and conformed to the promises and affirmations of fact and
12 omissions made on the labels and packaging, including that the machines were safe
13 and appropriate for human use.
14
15

16 104. Plaintiff relied on Philips' promises and affirmations of fact and
17 omissions when he purchased and used the Recalled Device.
18

19 105. Contrary to these representations and warranties, the Recalled Devices
20 including the machine used by Plaintiff was not fit for its ordinary use and did not
21 conform to Philips' affirmations of fact and promises and omissions because use of
22 the Recalled Devices is accompanied by the risk of adverse health effects, which
23 does not conform to the labels and packaging of these devices.
24
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1 106. Philips breached its implied warranties by selling a Recalled Device,
2 including the machine used by Plaintiff, that failed to conform to the promises or
3 affirmations of fact made on the packaging or label, as use of each Recalled Device
4 was accompanied by the risk of developing adverse health effects that do not
5 conform to the packaging or label.
6
7

8 107. Philips was on notice of this breach, as it was made aware of the
9 adverse health effects accompanying use of the Recalled Devices through user
10 reports submitted to Philips and through lab testing.
11

12 108. Privity exists because Philips impliedly warranted to Plaintiff through
13 the warranting, packaging, advertising, marketing, and labeling that the Recalled
14 Devices were natural, and suitable for use to treat health conditions, and made no
15 mention of the attendant health risks associated with use of the Recalled Devices.
16
17

18 109. As a direct and proximate result of the Recalled Devices, including
19 the aforementioned defects as described herein, Plaintiff Robert Setser has
20 experienced significant mental and physical pain and suffering, has sustained
21 permanent injury, has undergone medical treatment and will likely undergo further
22 medical treatment and procedures, has suffered financial or economic loss,
23 including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and expenses, and/or
24 lost income, and other damages.
25
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28

1 effects to users of the Recalled Devices which does not conform to the products'
2 labels, packaging, advertising, and statements.
3

4 115. Philips knowingly allowed its packaging, labels, advertisements,
5 promotional materials, and websites to intentionally mislead consumers, such as
6 Plaintiff.
7

8 116. Plaintiff did in fact rely on these omissions and misrepresentations
9 and purchased and used a Recalled Device to his detriment.
10

11 117. Given the deceptive manner in which Philips advertised, represented,
12 and otherwise promoted the Recalled Devices, Plaintiff's reliance on Philips'
13 omissions and misrepresentations was justifiable.
14

15 118. As a direct and proximate result of the recalled machines, including
16 the machine's aforementioned defects as described herein, Plaintiff Robert Setser
17 has experienced significant mental and physical pain and suffering, has sustained
18 permanent injury, has undergone medical treatment and will likely undergo further
19 medical treatment and procedures, has suffered financial or economic loss,
20 including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and expenses, and/or
21 lost income, and other damages.
22
23
24

25 119. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, and
26 each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, and requests
27

1 compensatory damages, punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit,
2 attorneys' fees, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.
3

4
5 **EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

6 ***Fraud by Omission***

7 ***(by Plaintiff ROBERT SETSER, against all Defendants and Does 1 through 100,
8 inclusive)***

9 120. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and alleges each and every one of
10 the allegations contained in the preceding and foregoing paragraphs of this
11 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.

12 121. Philips concealed from and failed to disclose to Plaintiff that use of
13 Recalled Devices, including the machine used by Plaintiff is accompanied by a risk
14 of adverse health effects, which does not conform to the products' labels,
15 packaging, advertising, and statements.
16

17 122. Philips was under a duty to disclose to Plaintiff the true quality,
18 characteristics, ingredients, and suitability of the Recalled Devices, including the
19 machine used by Plaintiff because:
20

- 21
- 22 a. Philips was in a superior position to know the true state of facts about
23 its products;
 - 24 b. Philips was in a superior position to know the risks associated with the
25 use of, characteristics of, and suitability of the Recalled Devices; and
26
27

1 c. Philips knew that Plaintiff could not reasonably have been expected to
2 learn or discover prior to purchasing the Recalled Device that there
3 were misrepresentations and omissions by Philips in the packaging,
4 labels, advertising, and websites regarding the health risks associated
5 with use of these devices.
6
7

8 123. The facts concealed or not disclosed by Philips to Plaintiff were
9 material in that a reasonable consumer would have considered them important
10 when deciding whether to purchase the Recalled Device.
11

12 124. Plaintiff justifiably relied on Philips' omissions to his detriment.
13

14 125. The detriment is evident from the true quality, characteristics, and risk
15 associated with the use of the Recalled Devices, including the machine used by
16 Plaintiff, which is inferior when compared to how the Recalled Devices are
17 advertised and represented by Philips.
18

19 126. As a direct and proximate result of the Recalled Devices, including
20 the machine's aforementioned defects as described herein, Plaintiff Robert Setser
21 has experienced significant mental and physical pain and suffering, has sustained
22 permanent injury, has undergone medical treatment and will likely undergo further
23 medical treatment and procedures, has suffered financial or economic loss,
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1 including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and expenses, and/or
2 lost income, and other damages.
3

4 127. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, and
5 each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, and requests
6 compensatory damages, punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit,
7 attorneys' fees, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.
8

9
10 **NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 ***Negligent Misrepresentation***

12 ***(by Plaintiff ROBERT SETSER, against all Defendants and Does 1 through 100,***
13 ***inclusive)***

14 128. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and alleges each and every one of
15 the allegations contained in the preceding and foregoing paragraphs of this
16 Complaint as if fully set forth herein.
17

18 129. Philips had a duty to Plaintiff to exercise reasonable and ordinary care
19 in the developing, testing, manufacture, marketing, distribution, and sale of the
20 Recalled Devices, including the machine used by Plaintiff.
21

22 130. Philips breached its duty to Plaintiff by developing, testing,
23 manufacturing, advertising, marketing, distributing, and selling products to
24 Plaintiff that did not have the qualities, characteristics, and suitability for use as
25 advertised by Philips and by failing to promptly remove the Recalled Devices,
26
27

1 including the machine used by Plaintiff from the marketplace or to take other
2 appropriate remedial action upon becoming aware of the health risks of the
3
4 Recalled Devices.

5 131. Philips knew or should have known that the qualities and
6 characteristics of the Recalled Devices, including the machine used by Plaintiff
7 were not as advertised or suitable for their intended use and were otherwise not as
8 warranted and represented by Philips. Specifically, Philips knew or should have
9
10 warranted and represented by Philips. Specifically, Philips knew or should have
11 known that:

- 12 a. The use of the Recalled Devices was accompanied by risks of adverse
13 health effects that do not conform to the packaging and labeling;
- 14 b. The Recalled Devices were adulterated, or at risk of being adulterated,
15 by the PE-PUR Foam; and
- 16 c. The Recalled Devices were otherwise not as warranted and
17 represented by Philips.
18
19
20

21 132. As a direct and proximate result of Defendants' negligence, Plaintiff
22 Robert Setser has experienced significant mental and physical pain and suffering,
23 has sustained permanent injury, has undergone medical treatment and will likely
24 undergo further medical treatment and procedures, has suffered financial or
25
26
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28

1 economic loss, including, but not limited to, obligations for medical services and
2 expenses, lost income, and other damages.
3

4 133. WHEREFORE, Plaintiff demands judgment against Defendants, and
5 each of them, individually, jointly, severally and in the alternative, and requests
6 compensatory damages, punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit,
7 attorneys' fees, and such further relief as the Court deems equitable and just.
8
9

10 **TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION**

11 ***Loss of Consortium (C.C.P. § 1431.2(b)(2))***

12 ***(by Plaintiff BONNIE SETSER, against all Defendants and Does 1 through 100,***
13 ***inclusive)***

14 134. Plaintiff Bonnie Setser realleges paragraphs 1 through 133 as if fully
15 set forth herein and incorporates same by reference.
16

17 135. Plaintiffs Robert Setser and Bonnie Setser were, at all times herein,
18 husband and wife.

19 136. Plaintiff Bonnie Setser alleges that Defendants, and each of them, are
20 liable for the injuries suffered by Plaintiff Robert Setser as set forth herein.
21

22 137. Prior to these injuries, Plaintiff Robert Setser was able to and did
23 perform his duties as a spouse. After the injuries suffered from his use of the
24 Recalled Devise and as a proximate result thereof, Plaintiff Robert Setser has been
25 unable to perform the necessary duties of a spouse, in that he can no longer
26
27
28

1 perform the work services usually performed by him in the care, maintenance and
2 management of the family home or any other function within the context of his
3 marriage to Plaintiff Bonnie Setser, including but not limited to care, comfort and
4 society, services, and support.
5

6
7 **RELIEF REQUESTED**

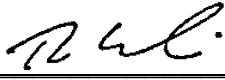
8 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs pray for judgment against the Defendants, and each
9 of them, as follows.
10

- 11 a. For past and future general damages on each cause of action, according to
12 proof;
- 13 b. For past and future pain and suffering, according to proof;
- 14 c. For past and future hospital, medical, nursing care, treatment and incidental
15 expenses, according to proof;
- 16 d. For future medical monitoring of Plaintiff Robert Setser;
- 17 e. For past and future loss of earnings and earning power, according to proof;
- 18 f. For past and future mental and emotional distress, according to proof;
- 19 g. For restitution, according to proof;
- 20 h. For punitive damages in an amount appropriate to punish and/or set an
21 example of Defendants, or in any other way appropriate;
- 22 i. For past and future costs of suit incurred herein, and attorney's fees as may be
23 allowed by law;
24
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- 1
2 j. For non-economic damages including but not limited to Plaintiff Bonnie
3 Setser's loss of her husband's love, companionship, comfort, care, assistance,
4 protection, affection, society, moral support; and the loss of the enjoyment of
5 sexual relations; and
6
7 k. For such other and further relief as the Court may deem just and proper

8 DATE: August 31, 2022

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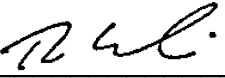
9
10 By: 
11 Russ W. Ecolani
12 ERCOLANI LAW GROUP
13 Attorney for Plaintiff,
14 ROBERT SETSER

15 **DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL**

16 Plaintiffs hereby demand a jury trial of this action.

17
18 DATE: August 31, 2022

ERCOLANI LAW GROUP

19
20 By: 
21 Russ W. Ecolani
22 ERCOLANI LAW GROUP
23 Attorney for Plaintiff,
24 ROBERT SETSER
25
26
27
28