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11	UNITED STATES	S DISTRICT COURT
12		
13		ICT OF CALIFORNIA
14	Karen Radford, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated,	CASE NO.
15	Plaintiff,	CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT
16		
17	V.	JURY TRIAL DEMANDED
18	Lyons Magnus, LLC, a California limited	
19 20	liability company, TRU Aseptics, LLC, a Wisconsin limited liability company; and	
21	DOES 1 to 10, inclusive,	
22		
22	Defendant	<u>s.</u>
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	CLASS ACTI	ON COMPLAINT

**INTRODUCTION** 

Plaintiff Karen Radford ("Plaintiff"), on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated, files this Class Action Complaint against Defendants Lyons Magnus, LLC and TRU Aseptics, LLC ("Defendants"), and in support states the following:

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### **NATURE OF THE ACTION**

7 1. This is a class action lawsuit by Plaintiff, and others similarly situated, who 8 purchased Defendants' Recalled Products, including: Lyons Ready Care, Lyons Barista 9 Style, Pirg, Glucerna, Aloha Protein Powder, Intelligentsia, Kate Farms, Oatly, Premier 10 Protein, MRE, Stumptown Cold Brew Coffee, Imperial, and Thick/Nectar Consistency 11 Dairy Drink (hereinafter "Recalled Products"), which were all manufactured, sold and 12 distributed by Defendants. Several of Defendants' Recalled Products have been shown to 13 be adulterated with Cronobacter sakazakii and Clostridium botulinum. The presence of 14 Cronobacter sakazakii and Clostridium botulinum in Defendants' Recalled Products was 15 not disclosed in the products' label, in violation of state and federal law. Plaintiff and the 16 putative classes suffered economic damages due to Defendants' misconduct (as set forth 17 below) and they seek injunctive relief and restitution for the full purchase price of the 18 Recalled Products they purchased. Plaintiff alleges the following based upon personal 19 knowledge as well as investigation by counsel, and as to all other matters, upon information 20 and belief. Plaintiff further believes that substantial evidentiary support will exist for the 21 allegations set forth herein after a reasonable opportunity for discovery.

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#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

23 2. This Court has original jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1332(d)(2).
24 The matter in controversy, exclusive of interest and costs, exceeds the sum or value
25 of \$5,000,000 and is a class action in which there are in excess of 100 class members
26 and Plaintiff is a citizen of a state different from Defendants.

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3. This Court has jurisdiction over Defendants because Defendants are authorized to conduct and do business in California. Defendants have marketed, promoted, distributed, and sold Recalled Products, including the Recalled Product identified below, in California and Defendants have sufficient minimum contacts with this State and/or sufficiently avail themselves of the markets in this State through promotion, sales, distribution and marketing within this State to render the exercise of jurisdiction by this Court permissible.

8 4. Venue is proper in this Court pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(a) and (b)
9 because a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to Plaintiff's claims
10 occurred in this judicial district and numerous Class members reside in this District
11 and were therefore harmed in this District.

### **THE PARTIES**

5. 13 Plaintiff is a citizen and resident of Escambia County, Florida and at all times relevant hereto, has been a resident of Escambia County. In or around the 14 15 summer of 2022, Plaintiff purchased Defendants' product at Walmart retail stores 16 located in and around Pensacola, Florida. At the time of purchase, based on the false 17 and misleading claims by Defendants, Plaintiff was unaware that Defendants' 18 Recalled Products may be adulterated with Cronobacter sakazakii and Clostridium 19 botulinum. Plaintiff purchased Defendants' Recalled Products on the assumption that 20 the labeling of Defendants' Recalled Products were accurate and that the products were unadulterated, safe and effective. Plaintiff would not have purchased 21 22 Defendants' Recalled Products had she known there was a risk the products may 23 contain Cronobacter sakazakii and Clostridium botulinum. As a result, Plaintiff 24 suffered injury in fact when she spent money to purchase Defendant's Recalled 25 Products she would not otherwise have purchased absent Defendants' misconduct, as 26 alleged herein. Plaintiff may purchase the products again if the product is not 27 contaminated and is properly labeled.

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6. Defendant Lyons Magnus, LLC, is a food service corporation.
 Defendant Lyons Magnus, LLC is a California limited liability company with its
 principal place of business in Fresno, California, located at: 3158 East Hamilton
 Avenue, Fresno, California 93702. Defendant Lyons Magnus, LLC manufactures,
 markets, advertises, labels, distributes and sells the Recalled Products at issue in this
 litigation.

7 7. Defendant TRU Aseptics, LLC is a low acid aseptic contract
8 manufacturer. Defendant TRU Aseptics, LLC is a Wisconsin limited liability
9 company with its principal place of business in Beloit, Wisconsin, located at: 2924
10 Wyetta Drive, Beloit, Wisconsin 53511. Defendant TRU Aseptics, LLC develops,
11 manufactures, and markets the Recalled Products at issue in this litigation.

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**INTRODUCTION** 

8. The following Recalled Products are manufactured, marketed, and sold
 by Defendants: Lyons Barista Style, Lyons Ready Care, Glucerna, Tone It Up,
 Uproot, Organic Valley, Sated, Aloha, Rejuvenate, Optimum Nutrition, Sweetie Pie
 Organics, Intelligentsia, Ensure Harvest, PediaSure Harvest, Glucerna Original, Kate
 Farms Pirq, Oatly. Premier Protein, MRE, Stumptown, and Imperial.<sup>1</sup> A full list of
 the Recalled Products is included below.

19 9. Defendants distribute these Recalled Products both nationwide and20 internationally.

21 10. Defendants' packaging notes that these products contain safe, quality
22 ingredients that are suitable for consumption by vulnerable populations including
23 young, old, and ill people.

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- Lyons Magnus expands recall of Oatly, Stumptown and other beverages over microbial contamination, FOOD SAFETY NEWS (Aug. 11, 2022), https://www.foodsafetynews.com/2022/08/lyons-magnus-expands-recall-of-oatly-stumptown-and-other-beverages-over-microbial-contamination.

1 11. On July 28, 2022, Defendants recalled a list of fifty-three (53) of their
 products due to possible contamination with *Cronobacter sakazakii* (hereinafter
 "Cronobacter").

4 As part of the Warning, the FDA Deputy Commissioner for Food Policy 12. and Response stated, "Lyons Magnus LLC ("Lyons Magnus" or the "Company") 5 today announced that it is voluntarily recalling nutritional and beverage products due 6 to the potential for microbial contamination, including from the organism 7 8 Cronobacter. The list of recalled products does not include products intended for 9 infants (i.e. under the age of one). While infection related to Cronobacter is rare, the common symptoms of illness could include fever, vomiting and urinary tract 10 infection."<sup>2</sup> "Root cause analysis indicates that the products did not meet commercial 11 sterility specifications."<sup>3</sup> 12

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13. The initial recall notice included the products listed above and included the following product information:<sup>4</sup>

15	Brand	Description	<b>UPC</b> Carton	UPC Case (if sold in cases)	Lot Code	Best By Date	
16		Thickened			4512	12/30/2022	
17		Dairy Drink - Moderately			5512	12/31/2022	
18		Thick/Honey Consistency 12ct/32 fl oz	045796100466	10045796100463	5902	11/1/2022	
19	Lyons Ready Care	cartons					
20	Ready Care	Thickened Dairy Drink -					
21		Moderately Thick/Honey	045796100442	10045796100449	0012	11/6/2022	
22		Consistency 24ct/8 fl oz					
<ul> <li>23</li> <li>24</li> <li>25</li> <li>26</li> </ul>	<sup>2</sup> U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMIN., COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT: Lyons Magnus Voluntarily Recalls 53 Nutritional and Beverage Products Due To The Potential For Microbial Contamination (Jul. 29, 2022), https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/lyons-magnus-voluntarily-recalls-53- nutritional-and-beverage-products-due-potential-microbial.						
26 27	<sup>3</sup> U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMIN., COMPANY ANNOUNCEMENT: Lyons Magnus Expands Voluntary Recall to Include Additional Nutritional and Beverage Products Due to the Potential for Microbial Contamination (Aug. 16, 2022), https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/lyons-magnus-expands- voluntary-recall-include-additional-nutritional-and-beverage-products-due.						
28	<sup>4</sup> U.S. FOOD & D	RUG ADMIN., <i>su</i>	<i>pra</i> note 2.				
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1	Brand	Description	UPC Carton	UPC Case (if sold in cases)	Lot Code	Best By Date
2		cartons				
3		2.0 High			1412	2/15/2023
4		Calorie High Protein			6312	2/10/2023
5		Nutritional Drink Butter	045796100497	10045796100494	9312	2/13/2023
6		Pecan 12ct/32 fl oz cartons			9902	1/4/2023
7		2.0 High	045796100503	10045796100500	8212	2/2/2023
8		Calorie High Protein				
9 10		Nutritional Drink Chocolate 12ct/32 fl oz	045796100459	10045796100456	3512	12/29/2022
11		cartons				
12		Thickened Dairy Drink -			4512	12/30/2022
13		Mildly Thick/Nectar Consistency 12ct/32 fl oz cartons	;	;	7902	11/3/2022
14 15						
					5312	2/9/2023
16		2.0 High			6312	2/10/2023
17		Calorie High Protein			6512	3/2/2023
18		Nutritional Drink	045796100916	10045796100913	7512	3/3/2023
19		Vanilla 12ct/32 fl oz			8512	3/4/2023
20		cartons			8902	1/3/2023
					9902	1/4/2023
21					3712	1/18/2023
22		Thickened			5212	12/1/2022
23		Dairy Drink - Mildly			5712	1/20/2023
24		Thick/Nectar	045796100435	10045796100432	8512	1/3/2023
25		Consistency 24ct/8 fl oz			8902	11/4/2022
		cartons			4712	1/19/2023
26					9902	11/5/2022
27	Lyons	Almond	045796101654	10045796101651	2012	1/7/2023
28	Barista Style	Non-Dairy	043790101034	10043/90101031	3012	1/8/2023

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Brand	Description	UPC Carton	UPC Case (if sold in cases)	Lot Code	Best By Date
	Beverage 12ct/32 fl oz			3712	3/19/2023
	12ct/32 fl oz cartons			4012	1/9/2023
				5712	3/21/2023
				5012	1/10/2023
				1612	3/7/2023
	Coconut Non-Dairy			2612	3/8/2023
	Beverage 12ct/32 fl oz	045796101791	10045796101798	2712	3/18/2023
	12ct/32 fl oz cartons			3612	3/9/2023
				8412	2/22/2023
				0612	3/6/2023
	Oat Non-			2212	1/27/2023
	Dairy	0.4550(101005	1004550(101004	3212	1/28/2023
Bevera 12ct/32	Beverage 12ct/32 fl oz	045796101807	10045796101804	4212	1/29/2023
	cartons		-	6412	2/20/2023
				7412	2/21/2023
		857690008065	857690008164	5412	5/25/2023
	Plant Protein			6412	5/26/2023
	Decadent Chocolate 12ct/325ml cartons			7412	5/27/2023
				8012	4/18/2023
				9012	4/19/2023
	Plant			8412	7/27/2023
Pirq	Protein Caramel Coffee 12ct/325ml cartons	857690008089	857690008140	9412	7/28/2023
	Plant			3412	5/23/2023
	Protein Golden	0		4412	5/24/2023
	Vanilla 12ct/325ml cartons	857690008041	857690008157	5012	4/15/2023
	Plant Protein Decadent Chocolate 4ct/325ml cartons	857690008065	857690008294	9012	4/19/2023

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Brand	Description	UPC Carton	UPC Case (if sold in cases)	Lot Code	Best By Date
	Plant Protein Caramel Coffee 4ct/325ml cartons	857690008089	857690008270	8412	7/27/202
	Plant			4412	5/24/202
	Protein Golden	857690008041	857690008287	6012	4/16/202
	Vanilla 4ct/325ml cartons	857070000041	857090008287	7012	4/17/202
	Plant			4412	7/23/202
	Protein Very	857600008200	957600009221	5412	7/24/202
	Strawberry 12ct/325ml	857690008300	857690008331	7012	6/16/202
	cartons			8012	6/17/202
	Plant Protein Very Strawberry 4ct/325ml cartons	857690008300	857690008317	7012	6/16/202
	Chocolate 24ct/237ml cartons Strawberry 24ct/237ml cartons	70074685656 70074685670	70074685649	400254X00	8/1/202
				400264X00	8/1/202
				400274X00	8/1/202
				410364X00	9/1/202
C1			70074685663	400244X00	8/1/202
Glucerna Original 8 fl				410354X00	9/1/202
oz tetra carton 24				400194X00	8/1/202
count club case (sold				400204X00	8/1/202
only at				400214X00	8/1/202
Costco, BJ's Wholesale				400224X00	8/1/202
Club, and Sam's Club)	Vanilla 24ct/237ml	70074685632	70074685625	400234X00	8/1/202
Sums Club)	cartons	70074085052	/00/4085025	410294X00	9/1/202
				410304X00	9/1/202
				410314X00	9/1/202
				410334X00	9/1/202
				410344X00	9/1/202

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	Brand	Description	<b>UPC</b> Carton	UPC Case (if sold in cases)	Lot Code	Best By Date
		Chocolate			8312	7/12/2023
		Sea Salt Plant-Based Protein 4ct/330ml cartons	842096112355	10842096142359	9312	7/13/2023
	Aloha	Coconut Plant-Based Protein 4ct/330ml cartons	842096112379	108420961423733	7312	7/11/2023
		Vanilla Plant-Based Protein 4ct/330ml cartons	842096112348	10842096142342	7312	7/11/2023
		Iced Coffee			0412	7/19/2023
		Plant Based Protein 4ct/330ml cartons	842096112386	10842096142380	9312	7/18/2023
	T . 11	Cold Coffee 12ct/330ml cartons	800222000969	10800222000966	9212	12/7/2022
	Intelligentsia	Oat Latte	800222000976	10800222000080	7112	1/4/2023
				10800222000980	8112	1/5/2023
			851823006904	851823006997	2512	6/1/2023
		Pediatric Standard 1.2 Vanilla 12ct/250ml cartons			3512	6/2/2023
	Kate Farms				4512	6/3/2023
					5512	6/4/2023
					6512	6/5/2023
					0112	20APR202 LM
		Oat-Milk Barista Edition			1112	21APR202 LM
	Oatly	12ct/32 fl oz slim cartons (Food	190646630058	101906466300550	2902	02APR202 LM
		(Food Service Channel)			3902	03APR202 LM
					4902	04APR202 LM

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Brand	Description	UPC Carton	UPC Case (if sold in cases)	Lot Code	Best By Date
				6112	26APR20 LM
				9012	19APR20 LM
				2412/2142BT	7/20/202
	Chocolate			3412/2143BT	7/21/202
	12ct/330ml	643843714477	643843714200	4612/2164BT	8/11/202
	cartons			5612/2165BT	8/12/202
				66122166BT	8/13/202
				0012/2100BT	6/8/202
				1012/2101BT	6/9/202
				1212/2121BT	6/29/202
	Vanilla	643843715351	643843718642	1612/2161BT	8/8/202
	18ct/330ml cartons			2012/2102BT	6/10/202
				2212/2122BT	6/30/202
				3012/2103BT	6/11/202
				4012/2104BT	6/12/202
Premier Protein	Chocolate 18ct/330ml cartons	643843715344	643843718581	9712/2179BT	8/26/202
		643843714507	643843713944	0612/2160BT	8/7/202
	Vanilla	010010711007		4902/2094BT	6/2/202
	12ct/330ml cartons	;	;	9512/2159BT	8/6/202
			643843714736	4902/2094BT	6/2/202
	X.7 11			5902/2095BT	6/3/202
	Vanilla 4ct/330ml	643843714507		6902/2096BT	6/4/202
	cartons			7902/2097BT	6/5/202
				8902/2098BT	6/6/202
				3212/2123BT	7/1/202
				4212/2124BT	7/2/202
	Café Latte 4ct/330ml	643843716686	643843716662	5212/2125BT	7/3/202
	cartons		015015710002	62122126BT	7/4/202
				7212/2127BT	7/5/202

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Brand	Description	UPC Carton	UPC Case (if sold in cases)	Lot Code	Best By Date
	Café Latte 18ct/330ml cartons	643843716655	643843718567	8212/2128BT	7/6/2023
	Vanilla 15ct/330ml cartons	643843714507	643843720461	5902/2095BT	6/3/2023
	Cookies &			2112	4/22/2023
	Cream Protein Shake 4ct/330ml	810044573893	10810044573968	3112 9612	4/23/2023 6/18/2023
	cartons				
	Milk Chocolate			3112	4/23/2023
	Protein Shake 4ct/330ml cartons	810044573916	10810044573944	4112 5112	4/24/2023
MRE	Salted		10810044573937	1112	4/21/2023
	Caramel Protein	010044550000		2112	4/22/2023
	Shake 4ct/330ml	810044573923		7612	6/16/2023
	cartons			8612	6/17/2023
	Vanilla Milk	Shake Protein Shake 4ct/330ml	10810044573951	0112	4/20/2023
	Shake Protein			1112	4/21/2023
	Shake 4ct/330ml			6612	6/15/2023
	cartons			7612	6/16/2023
	Cold Brew Coffee With			3312	12/9/2022
	Oat Milk Original 12ct/325ml cartons	855186006878	10855186006875	4312	12/10/202
	Cold Brew			4312	12/10/202
Stumptown	Coffee With Oat Milk Horchata 12ct/325ml cartons	855186006892	10855186006892	5312	12/11/202
	Cold Brew Coffee With Oat Milk Chocolate 12ct/325ml	855186006892	10855186006892	6312	12/12/202

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	Brand	Description	UPC Carton	UPC Case (if sold in cases)	Lot Code	Best By Date
		cartons				
		Cold Brew Coffee With			0412	12/16/202
		Cream & Sugar Chocolate 12ct/325ml cartons	855186006861	855186006861	1412	12/17/202
		Cold Brew			2312	12/8/202
		Coffee with Cream & Sugar Original 12ct/325ml cartons	855156306847	10855186006844	3312	12/9/202
		N 1 D1			2312	2/6/2023
		Med Plus 2.0 Vanilla			3312	2/7/2023
		Nutritional Drink 12ct/32 fl oz	074865927307	10074865927304	7112	1/22/202
					8112	1/23/202
		cartons			8612	3/14/202
		Thickened Dairy Drink - Moderately Thick/Honey Consistency	0734730556147		5512	12/31/202
				-	5902	11/1/202
				10734730556144	6902	11/2/202
		12ct/32 fl oz cartons			7212	12/3/202
	Imporial			10074865945490	0012	11/6/202
	Imperial	Thickened			2212	11/28/202
		Dairy Drink - Mildly			3212	11/29/202
		Thick/Nectar Consistency 24ct/8 fl oz	074865945493		4212	11/30/202
					5712	1/20/202
		cartons			6712	1/21/202
					9902	11/5/202
		Med Plus NSA 1.7			1902	12/27/202
		Vanilla Nutritional Drink 12ct/32 fl oz cartons	0734730310749	10734730310746	1312	2/5/2023

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1	Brand	Description	UPC Carton	UPC Case (if sold in cases)	Lot Code	Best By Date
2		Med Plus			0012	1/5/2023
3		2.0 Butter Pecan			1412	2/15/2023
4		Nutritional Drink	074865927321	10074865927328	9512	3/5/2023
5		12ct/32 fl oz cartons			9902	1/4/2023
6		Thickened			2512	12/28/2022
7		Dairy Drink - Mildly	0734730556154	10734730556151	3512	12/29/2022
8					6902	11/2/2022
9 10	Thick/Nectar Consistency 12ct/32 fl oz cartons	Moderately Thick/Honey	074865945509	10074865945506	4212	11/30/2022
11 12		Consistency 24ct/8 fl oz cartons			6212	12/2/2022

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These products may contain Cronobacter sakazakii and Clostridium 14. botulinum bacteria.

15. Per the CDC website, *Cronobacter* is a germ that can live in very dry places. The germs can live in dry foods, such as powdered food products.<sup>5</sup>

Cronobacter sakazakii and Clostridium botulinum bacterium can get 16. into the Recalled Product if contaminated raw materials are used to make the product or if the powder touches a contaminated surface in the manufacturing environment.

17. Cronobacter sakazakii and Clostridium botulinum bacterium can cause severe, life-threatening infections, blood stream infections (sepsis), meningitis, and symptoms may include: fever, vomiting, and urinary tract infection. Infants, people over sixty-five (65), and those with weakened immune systems are those most at risk of developing severe illness from Cronobacter.<sup>6</sup>

24 18. On August 16, 2022, the FDA published an announcement by Lyons 25 Magnus that the manufacturer expanded its recall to include "additional nutritional 26

27 <sup>5</sup> CDC, https://www.cdc.gov/cronobacter/technical.html (last visited Jan. 17, 2023). 28 <sup>6</sup> *Id*.

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and beverage products due to the potential for microbial contamination."<sup>7</sup> The recall
 expanded to include nearly 400 additional Lyons Magnus food nutritional and
 beverage products, which are listed in their entirety at the following FDA.gov
 website: <u>https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/lyons-</u>
 <u>magnus-expands-voluntary-recall-include-additional-nutritional-and-beverage-</u>
 products-due.

- 7 19. "This recall is being conducted due to the potential for microbial
  8 contamination, including from the organisms *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Clostridium*9 *botulinum*."<sup>8</sup>
- 10

20. According to Lyons Magnus' own company statement:

11 Clostridium *botulinum* may cause a severe form of food poisoning. It can 12 begin from six hours to two weeks after eating food that contains the toxin. 13 Symptoms may include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred 14 speech, difficulty swallowing, and muscle weakness. Botulism poisoning can cause 15 respiratory paralysis, resulting in death, unless assistance with breathing (mechanical 16 ventilation) is provided.<sup>9</sup>

17 21. Defendants failed to take adequate, reasonable measures to protect the18 health and lives of people consuming their products.

19 22. As a result of Defendants' use of marketing and advertising that omits
20 from disclosure, including from the ingredients list, that the recalled products contain
21 *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Clostridium botulinum*, reasonable consumers are led to
22 believe that they are purchasing products that are not contaminated with bacteria. For
23 example, Defendants' packaging and marketing for Glucerna states "GLUCERNA

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- 28 9 Id.

<sup>8</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. FOOD & DRUG ADMIN., *supra* note 2.

SHAKES ARE GOOD SOURCES OF NUTRIENTS TO HELP SUPPORT
 IMMUNE HEALTH."<sup>10</sup>

23. Plaintiff purchased Defendants' Recalled Product – specifically,
Premier Protein- Café Latte, at Walmart in and around Pensacola, Florida. Plaintiff
verified that the products purchased included those on the recall list issued by
Defendants.



Figure 1, Image of UPC Carton of Premier Protein purchased by Plaintiff.

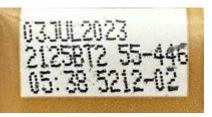


Figure 2, Image of Lot Code of Premier Protein purchased by Plaintiff.

24. Plaintiff made purchases of the Premier Protein – Café Latte in or around the summer of 2022.

<sup>10</sup> GLUCERNA, https://glucerna.com/nutrition-products/glucerna-shakes-rich-chocolate (last visited Jan. 17, 2023) [https://web.archive.org/web/20220525200857/https://glucerna.com/nutrition-products/glucerna-shakes-rich-chocolate].

1 25. Plaintiff purchased Premier Protein believing that the product was safe 2 for consumption having relied upon Defendants' representations that the Premier 3 Protein product she purchased contained "nutrients for Immune Health support." 4 26. Plaintiff paid approximately \$8 per carton purchased at Walmart. 5 27. As a direct and proximate result of Plaintiff purchasing the Recalled Product, Plaintiff has suffered injuries as alleged below. 6 7 **CLASS ACTION ALLEGATIONS** 8 28. Plaintiff bring this action on behalf of herself and all other similarly 9 situated class members (the "Class" or "Classes") pursuant to Rule 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and seeks certification of the following 10 11 Class and/or Sub-Classes against Defendants for violations of Florida state laws 12 and/or similar laws in other states: **Multi-State Class Action** 13 14 All consumers who purchased any of Defendants' Recalled Product in the United States of America and its territories from July 1, 2021 to the 15 present for personal use or consumption. 16 Excluded from the Class are Defendants, any parent companies, 17 subsidiaries, and/or affiliates, officers, directors, legal representatives, 18 employees, co-conspirators, all governmental entities, and any judge, justice or judicial officer presiding over this matter. 19 In the alternative, Plaintiff brings this action on behalf of herself and all 20 29. other similarly situated Florida consumers pursuant to Rule 23(a), (b)(2) and (b)(3)21 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and seeks certification of the following Sub-22 23 Classes: 24 **Florida Sub-Class** 25 All consumers who purchased any of Defendants' Recalled Product in Florida, USA from July 1, 2021 to the present for personal use or 26 consumption. 27 28 15 **CLASS ACTION COMPLAINT** 

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Excluded from the Class are Defendants, any parent companies, subsidiaries, and/or affiliates, officers, directors, legal representatives, employees, co-conspirators, all governmental entities, and any judge, justice or judicial officer presiding over this matter.

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30. Plaintiff reserves the right to modify these definitions.

5 31. The members of the Class are so numerous that joinder of all members 6 of the Class is impracticable. Plaintiff is informed and believes that the proposed 7 Class/Sub-Classes contains thousands of purchasers of Defendants' Recalled 8 Products who have been damaged by Defendants' conduct as alleged herein. The 9 precise number of Class members is unknown to Plaintiff at this time.

32. Plaintiff's claims are typical to those of all Class members because
members of the Class are similarly injured through Defendants' uniform misconduct
described above and were subject to Defendants' deceptive claims that accompanied
each and every Recalled Product. Plaintiff is advancing the same claims and legal
theories on behalf of herself and all members of the Class/Sub-Class.

33. Plaintiff's claims raise questions of law and fact common to all
members of the Class, and they predominate over any questions affecting only
individual Class members. The claims of Plaintiff and all prospective Class members
involve the same alleged defect. These common legal and factual questions include
the following:

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- (a) whether Defendants' Products contained *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Clostridium botulinum* bacterium;
- 22 23

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- (b) whether Defendants' omissions are true, or are misleading, or objectively reasonably likely to deceive;
- 24 (c) whether the alleged conduct constitutes violations of the laws asserted;
  - (d) whether Defendants' alleged conduct violates public policy;
- 26 (e) whether Defendants engaged in false or misleading advertising; and
- (f) whether Plaintiff and the Class members are entitled to damages and/or
  restitution and the proper measure of that loss.

1 34. Plaintiff and her counsel will fairly and adequately protect and represent 2 the interests of each member of the class. Plaintiff has retained counsel experienced 3 in complex litigation and class actions. Plaintiff's counsel has successfully litigated 4 other class action cases similar to that here and have the resources and abilities to 5 fully litigate and protect the interests of the class. Plaintiff intends to prosecute this 6 claim vigorously. Plaintiff has no adverse or antagonistic interests to those of the 7 Class, nor is Plaintiff subject to any unique defenses.

8 A class action is superior to the other available methods for a fair and 35. 9 efficient adjudication of this controversy. The damages or other financial detriment 10 suffered by the Plaintiff and individual Class members is relatively small compared 11 to the burden and expense that would be entailed by individual litigation of their claims against Defendants. It would thus be virtually impossible for Plaintiff and 12 13 Class members, on an individual basis, to obtain meaningful and effective redress for 14 the wrongs done to them. Further, it is desirable to concentrate the litigation of the 15 Class members' claims in one forum, as it will conserve party and judicial resources 16 and facilitate the consistency of adjudications. Plaintiff knows of no difficulty that 17 would be encountered in the management of this case that would preclude its 18 maintenance as a class action.

19 36. The Class also may be certified because Defendants have acted or
20 refused to act on grounds applicable to the Class, thereby making appropriate final
21 declaratory and/or injunctive relief with respect to the members of the Class as a
22 whole.

37. Plaintiff seeks preliminary and permanent injunctive and equitable relief
on behalf of the entire Class, on grounds generally applicable to the entire Class, to
enjoin and prevent Defendants from engaging in the acts described above and
requiring Defendants to provide a full refund of the purchase price of the Defendants
Recalled Products to Plaintiff and Class members.

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1 38. Unless a Class is certified, Defendants will retain monies received as a 2 result of their conduct that were taken from Plaintiff and the Class members. Unless 3 a Class-wide injunction is issued, Defendants will continue to commit the violations 4 alleged and the members of the Class and the general public will continue to be 5 misled. 6 FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION 7 **Unjust Enrichment** 8 (On Behalf of the Multi-State Class and All State Classes) 9 39. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges each and every 10 allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein. 11 40. As a result of Defendants' wrongful and deceptive conduct alleged 12 herein, Defendants knowingly and voluntarily accepted and retained wrongful benefits in the form of money paid by the Plaintiff and members of the Classes when 13 they purchased the Defendants' Recalled Products. 14

15 41. In so doing, Defendants acted with conscious disregard for the rights of16 Plaintiff and members of the Classes.

42. As a result of Defendants' wrongful conduct as alleged herein,
Defendants has been unjustly enriched at the expense of, and to the detriment of,
Plaintiff and members of the Classes.

20 43. Defendants' unjust enrichment is traceable to, and resulted directly and21 proximately from, the conduct alleged herein.

44. Under the common law doctrine of unjust enrichment, it is inequitable
for Defendants to be permitted to retain the benefits it received, and is still receiving,
without justification, from the false and deceptive labeling and marketing of
Defendants' Recalled Products to Plaintiff and members of the Classes.

26 45. Defendants' retention of such funds under circumstances making it
27 inequitable to do so constitutes unjust enrichment.

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46. The financial benefits derived by Defendants rightfully belong to
 Plaintiff and members of the Classes.

47. Defendants should be compelled to disgorge in a common fund for the
benefit of Plaintiff and members of the Classes all wrongful or inequitable proceeds
received by them.

6 48. Finally, Plaintiff and members of the Classes may assert an unjust
7 enrichment claim even though a remedy at law may otherwise exist.

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## Negligent Misrepresentation/Omission

## (On Behalf of the Multi-State Class and All State Classes)

**SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION** 

49. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-allege each and everyallegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

13 50. Through their labeling and advertising, Defendants made
14 representations to Plaintiff and the Class members concerning the safety of their
15 Recalled Products.

16 51. Defendants have a duty to provide accurate information to consumers
17 with respect to the ingredients identified in Defendants' Recalled Products as
18 detailed above.

19 52. Additionally, Defendants have a duty to not make false representations20 with respect to the safety of their Products.

21 53. Defendants failed to fulfill their duty when it made false representations
22 regarding the quality and safety of the Products as detailed above.

54. Such failures to disclose on the part of Defendants amount to negligent
omission and the representations regarding the quality and safety of the product
amount to negligent misrepresentation.

26 55. Plaintiff and the other members of the Classes reasonably relied upon
27 such representations and omissions to their detriment.

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56. By reason thereof, Plaintiff and the other Class members have suffered
 damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

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# (On Behalf of the Multi-State Class and All State Classes)

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

**Breach of Express Warranty** 

6 57. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-allege each and every
7 allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

8 58. As detailed above, Defendants, through their written literature,
9 packaging and labeling, and written and media advertisement, expressly warranted
10 that the Recalled Products were safe and fit for the purposes intended, that they were
11 of merchantable quality, and that they did not pose dangerous health risks.

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59. Plaintiff and the other Class members read and relied on these express warranties provided by Defendants in the packaging and written advertisements.

14 60. Defendants breached their express warranties because the Recalled15 Products were defective and not reasonably safe for their intended use.

16 61. Defendants knew or should have known that the Recalled Products did
17 not conform to their express warranties and representations and that, in fact, the
18 Products are not safe and pose serious health risks because they contain *Cronobacter*19 *sakazakii* and *Clostridium botulinum*.

20 62. Plaintiff and the other Class members have suffered harm on account of
21 Defendants' breach of their express warranty regarding the fitness for use and safety
22 of these Products and are entitled to damages to be determined at trial.

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# FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION

# **Breach of Implied Warranty**

# (On Behalf of the Multi-State Class and All State Classes)

26 63. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-allege each and every27 allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

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64. Because the Recalled Products contained *Cronobacter sakazakii* and
 *Clostridium botulinum*, they were not of the same quality as those generally
 acceptable in the trade and were not fit for the ordinary purposes for which such
 these nutritional and beverage products are used.

65. Plaintiff and members of the Classes purchased these Recalled Products
in reliance upon Defendants' skill and judgment and the implied warranties of fitness
for the purpose.

8 66. Defendants' Recalled Products were not altered by Plaintiff or members9 of the Classes.

10 67. Plaintiff and members of the Classes were foreseeable users of the11 Recalled Products.

12 68. Plaintiff and members of the Classes used the Recalled Products in the13 manner intended.

69. As alleged, the Defendants' Recalled Products were not adequately
labeled and did not disclose that they contain harmful *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Clostridium botulinum*.

17 70. The Recalled Products did not measure up to the promises or facts
18 stated in the written literature, media advertisement and communications by and
19 from Defendants.

20 71. Defendants impliedly warranted that the Recalled Products were21 merchantable, fit and safe for ordinary use.

22 72. Defendants further impliedly warranted that the Recalled Products were23 fit for the particular purposes for which they were intended and sold.

73. Contrary to these implied warranties, the Recalled Products were
defective, unmerchantable, and unfit for their ordinary use when sold, and unfit for
the particular purpose for which they were sold.

27 74. By reason thereof, Plaintiff and the other Class members have suffered28 damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

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FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION

## Violation of Florida's Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act

## Fla. Stat. §§ 501.201-213

## (On Behalf of the Florida Class)

5 75. Plaintiff incorporates by reference and re-alleges each and every6 allegation contained above, as though fully set forth herein.

7 76. Plaintiff was a consumer who used Defendants' Recalled Products
8 primarily for personal use and thereby suffered ascertainable losses, including mental
9 anguish, as a result of Defendants' acts and omissions in violation of the applicable
10 consumer protection laws.

11 77. The Florida Deceptive and Unfair Trade Practices Act ("FDUTPA")
12 renders unlawful unfair methods of competition, unconscionable acts or practice, and
13 unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce. Fla.
14 Stat. § 501.204.

78. Among other purposes, FDUTPA is intended "[t]o protect the
consuming public and legitimate business enterprises from those who engage in
unfair methods of competition, or unconscionable, deceptive, or unfair acts or
practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce." Fla. Stat. § 501.202.

79. As alleged herein, Plaintiff has suffered injury in fact and lost money as
a result of Defendants' conduct because they purchased Recalled Products from
Defendants in reliance on Defendants' representation that the ingredients in their
Recalled Products were safe and effective and were not contaminated with
microorganisms, such as *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Clostridium botulinum*bacterium.

80. Defendants have engaged, and continue to engage, in conduct that is
likely to deceive members of the public. This conduct includes representing in their
labels that their Recalled Products contain only the ingredients listed in the label,
which is untrue, and failing to make any mention that the Recalled Products are

adulterated with microorganisms, such as *Cronobacter sakazakii* and *Clostridium botulinum* bacterium.

3 81. Florida Statutes, Section 501.204, makes unfair and/or deceptive trade
4 practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce illegal.

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82. Florida Statutes, Section 501.211, creates a private right of action for individuals who are aggrieved by an unfair and/or deceptive trade practice by another person.

8 83. Florida Statutes, Section 501.2105, provides that the prevailing party in
9 litigation arising from a cause of action pursuant to Chapter 501 shall be entitled to
10 recover attorney's fees within the limitations set forth therein from the non11 prevailing party.

12 84. Florida Statutes, Section 501.213, provides that any remedies available
13 under Chapter 501 are in addition to any other remedies otherwise available for the
14 same conduct under state or local law.

15 85. Florida Statutes, Section 501.203 (3)(c), states that a person has violated
16 the FDUTPA if he/she violates "any law, statute, rule, regulation, or ordinance which
17 proscribes unfair, deceptive, or unconscionable acts or practices."

18 86. Defendants are engaged in the practice of manufacturing, marketing,
19 distributing, selling and otherwise placing into the stream of commerce the Recalled
20 Products which constitutes trade and commerce as defined by Sections 501.203(8)
21 Fla. Stat., and is therefore subject to FDUPTA.

87. As a result of Defendants' unfair and deceptive trade practices, Plaintiff
is entitled to an award of attorney's fees pursuant to FDUTPA, Florida Statutes,
Section 501.2105, if they prevail.

88. Defendants' conduct with respect to the labeling, advertising,
marketing, and sale of their Recalled Products is unfair because Defendants' conduct
was immoral, unethical, unscrupulous, or substantially injurious to consumers and

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the utility of their conduct, if any, does not outweigh the gravity of the harm to their
 victims.

89. In accordance with FDUTPA, Plaintiff seeks an order enjoining
Defendants from continuing to conduct business through fraudulent or unlawful acts
and practices and to commence a corrective advertising campaign. Defendants'
conduct is ongoing and continuing, such that prospective injunctive relief is
necessary.

8 90. Plaintiffs also seeks an order entitling them to recover all monies spent 9 on the Defendants' Recalled Products, which were acquired through acts of 10 fraudulent, unfair, or unlawful competition. In addition, the measure of restitution 11 should be a full refund of the purchase price insofar as the Recalled Products and their associated labels are worthless. But for Defendants' misrepresentations and 12 omissions, Plaintiff would have paid nothing for Recalled Products that have a risk 13 14 of containing microorganisms such as Cronobacter sakazakii and Clostridium 15 *botulinum* bacterium. Indeed, there is no discernible "market" for а 16 nutritional/beverage product that may be adulterated with harmful bacteria. As a 17 result, the Defendants' Recalled Products are rendered valueless.

18 91. As a result of Defendants' conduct in the manufacture of the
19 Defendants' Recalled Products violating the foregoing statutes and regulations,
20 Plaintiff suffered damages in an amount to be proven at trial.

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### **PRAYER FOR RELIEF**

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, on behalf of herself and all others similarly situated,
pray for judgment against the Defendants as to each and every count, including:

- a. An order declaring this action to be a proper class action, appointing Plaintiff and her counsel to represent the Class/Sub-Classes, and requiring Defendants to bear the costs of class notice;
  - b. An order requiring Defendants to engage in a corrective advertising campaign and engage in any further necessary affirmative injunctive relief;

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1	c. An order awarding declaratory relief, and any further retrospective or
2	prospective injunctive relief permitted by law or equity, including
3	enjoining Defendants from continuing the unlawful practices alleged
4	herein, and injunctive relief to remedy Defendants' past conduct;
5	d. An order requiring Defendants to pay restitution/damages to restore all
6	funds acquired by means of any act or practice declared by this Court to be
7	an unlawful, unfair, or fraudulent business act or practice, untrue or
8	misleading advertising in violation of the above-cited authority, plus pre-
9	and post-judgment interest thereon;
10	e. An order requiring Defendants to disgorge any ill-gotten benefits received
11	from Plaintiff and members of the Class/Sub-Classes as a result of any
12	wrongful or unlawful act or practice;
13	f. An order requiring Defendants to pay all actual and statutory damages
14	permitted under the counts alleged herein;
15	g. An order awarding attorneys' fees and costs to Plaintiff and the Class/Sub-
16	Classes; and
17	h. An order providing for all other such equitable relief as may be just and
18	proper.
19	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL
20	Plaintiff demands a trial by jury on all issues so triable.
21	
22	DATED: January 19, 2023 BRADLEY/GROMBACHER, LLP
23	By: <u>/s/ Kiley L. Grombacher, Esq.</u>
24	Marcus J. Bradley, Esq. Kiley L. Grombacher, Esq.
25	Lirit A. King, Esq.
26	Attorneys for Plaintiff and others similarly situated
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