



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

CHAIR ALEXANDER D. HOEHN-SARIC

Statement of Chair Alexander Hoehn-Saric on \$9M Settlement Agreement with BJ's Wholesale Club

September 29, 2023

I voted with my fellow Commissioners to approve a proposed civil penalty settlement with BJ's Wholesale Club (BJs) for allegedly violating the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA). If finally adopted, this settlement would require BJ's to pay a fine of \$9 million and take other remedial actions designed to protect consumers in the future.

Section 15(b) of the CPSA requires a retailer that obtains information which reasonably supports the conclusion that its product contains a defect that could create a substantial product hazard or unreasonable risk of serious injury or death to immediately inform the Commission about that risk. In this case, BJ's did not report to the Commission when they learned of a death from the product in 2017. BJ's did not report even when it notified its own customers to stop using the product due to safety concerns. Our action sends a loud and clear warning to companies who continue to sell dangerous products despite knowing that they can cause serious injury or death.

In Fiscal Year 2022, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) assessed \$32 million in civil penalty payments to the U.S. Treasury. For Fiscal Year 2023, CPSC's final assessments surpassed that number, totaling more than \$52 million. This is no small feat. These penalties, like today's settlement announcement, demonstrate CPSC's commitment to hold companies accountable when they put the public at risk and consumers should look forward to a safer marketplace for all. I thank CPSC's staff for their hard work, diligence, and commitment to improving public safety.