

**Resolution #13C:
Recommendation: Do Pass
Action Taken:**

Subject: Express Scripts
Source: Resolutions Committee

Whereas, the ELCA is using the Express Scripts as the sole resource for medicine and that Express Scripts goes out of its way to eliminate competition in the market place by doing everything through mail order.

Whereas, the 7th commandment states, "you shall not steal". Luther's words as to what does this mean? "We are to fear and love God so that we neither take our neighbors money, or of property or to acquire them by using shoddy merchandise or crooked deals, but instead help them to improve their property and income." The issue of crooked deals is of most importance.

Whereas, 39 Attorney Generals have stated that the PBM's account for billions of dollars of losses from small business owners in the United States due to charges that PBM's create.

Whereas, The social statement on healthcare adopted by the ELCA in 2003 has as its directive, 'As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and as a corporate body, we support

- A comprehensive approach to health care as a shared endeavor among individuals, churches, government, and the wider society;
- A vision of health care and healing that includes individual church, and social responsibilities;
- A vision of a healthcare system that is based on understanding health, illness, healing, and health care within a coherent set of services;
- Equitable access for all people to basic health care services and to the benefits of public health efforts;
- Faithful moral discernment guiding individual participation and public policymaking in health care services.

Therefore, be it resolved; that the South Dakota Synod meeting in assembly, memorialize the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly to direct the advocacy office of this church to review policies and advocate to address the greed and lack of concern found within the system of PBM's seeking to destroy the small business pharmacies found in the USA.

Resolved, that Portico Benefit Services be encouraged to direct a change in policy regarding what PBM's like that of Express Scripts can and cannot do with regard to taxing, profiteering, and creating unjust practices against the small business pharmacies affected by loopholes found in the healthcare field.

Resolved, that the ELCA advocacy office in Washington D.C. find ways to educate and lobby the Congress of the United States and the executive branch to change the laws and block the loopholes that those who are PBM's use and to actually create laws that protect small business pharmacies.