Dear Mr. Jacobs,

We are responding to your public records request received by the Health Connector on October 10, 2017. You requested documents regarding how the case of House v. Burwell affected 2017 plan year rates and contracting.

We do not have any records that are responsive to your request. By way of explanation, the Health Connector is not responsible for submitting or approving health insurance rates. In Massachusetts, the health insurance carriers’ rate submissions are reviewed and approved by the state’s Division of Insurance, a state agency. Typically insurers submit rates in the middle of a calendar year for review and approval; those rates are then effective on the first of the following year. Thus, rates for 2017 plan year were submitted and approved in mid-2016. Although the Health Connector was not directly involved in the creation and approval of rates, there was no indication that rates for 2017 were affected by the pendency of House v. Burwell. There was no discussion of a contract provision regarding House v. Burwell for the 2017 plan year.

I hope this information is helpful to you. Thank you for your inquiry.

The following Public Records Request was submitted via the online form:

Name
Christopher Jacobs

Email

Phone

Address

Map It

Summary of Request
I would like to make a public records request for information relating to plan bids and cost-sharing reduction payments as it relates to bids for the current (i.e., 2017) plan year. Specifically, I would like to review any and all documents discussing the May 12, 2016 federal district court ruling in House v. Price (formerly House v. Burwell), and whether and how that court ruling and the status of cost-sharing reduction payments affected insurer plan bids, your office’s rate assumptions, and the contracting process for the 2017 plan year.