



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 23, 1998

Ms. Joan Carol Bates
Office of the General Counsel
Texas Department of Health
1100 West 49th Street
Austin, Texas 78756

OR98-2841

Dear Ms. Bates:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 121877.

You assert that the requested information is excepted from disclosure based on section 552.104 of the Government Code. Section 552.104 states that information is excepted from required public disclosure if release of the information would give advantage to a competitor or bidder. The purpose of this exception is to protect the interests of a governmental body usually in competitive bidding situations. *See* Open Records Decision No. 592 (1991). This exception protects information from public disclosure if the governmental body demonstrates potential harm to its interests in a particular competitive situation. *See* Open Records Decision No. 463 (1987). Generally, section 552.104 does not except bids from public disclosure after bidding is completed and the contract has been awarded. *See* Open Records Decision 541 (1990).

In this case, you inform us that the contract has not been awarded. We therefore conclude that the information is excepted from disclosure based on section 552.104 until such time as the contract is awarded.

In light of our conclusion under section 552.104, we need not address the other exceptions raised, if any. We are resolving this matter with this informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records

at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and may not be relied upon as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have questions about this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,



Kay Hastings
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

KHH/mjc

Ref.: ID# 121877

Enclosures: Submitted documents

cc: Ms. Catherine Halverson
Vice President of Medicaid Programs
UNITED Healthcare
5901 Lincoln Drive
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440
(w/o enclosures)