



UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

Mail Stop 3233

August 24, 2016

Via E-mail

Mr. Richard W. Siedel, Jr.  
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer  
Senior Housing Properties Trust  
Two Newton Place  
255 Washington Street, Suite 300  
Newton, Massachusetts 02458-1634

**Re: Senior Housing Properties Trust  
Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2015  
Filed February 24, 2016  
File No. 001-15319**

Dear Mr. Siedel:

We have completed our review of your filing. We remind you that our comments or changes to disclosure in response to our comments do not foreclose the Commission from taking any action with respect to the company or the filing and the company may not assert staff comments as a defense in any proceeding initiated by the Commission or any person under the federal securities laws of the United States. We urge all persons who are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of the disclosure in the filing to be certain that the filing includes the information the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and all applicable rules require.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer Monick

Jennifer Monick  
Assistant Chief Accountant  
Office of Real Estate and  
Commodities