



DIVISION OF
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

Mailstop 3233

March 29, 2017

Via E-Mail

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

**Re: Senior Housing Properties Trust
Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2016
Filed February 27, 2017
File No. 1-15319**

Dear Mr. Siedel:

We have completed our review of your filing. We remind you that the company and its management are responsible for the accuracy and adequacy of their disclosures, notwithstanding any review, comments, action or absence of action by the staff.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jennifer Monick

Jennifer Monick
Assistant Chief Accountant
Office of Real Estate and
Commodities