



DIVISION OF  
CORPORATION FINANCE

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

June 15, 2011

Via Facsimile

Mr. Richard A. Doyle  
Chief Financial Officer  
Senior Housing Properties Trust  
400 Centre Street  
Newton, MA 02458

**RE: Senior Housing Properties Trust  
Form 10-K for the period ended December 31, 2010  
Filed February 24, 2011  
File No. 1-15319**

Dear Mr. Doyle:

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/ Daniel L. Gordon

Daniel L. Gordon  
Branch Chief