What I wish our leaders would have said about older Iowans

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Iowa is an aging state. The 65 and older population is expected to increase from 20% now to 37% by 2036. That means more older Iowans will need to rely on government assistance than ever before. And that means our leaders need to do a better job of addressing their needs.

Last month, we learned what is important to Iowa’s senior leaders as they look ahead at the new legislative session. We listened to the Governor’s State of the State address, the seniors’ speeches by the House and Senate leadership, and the senior leaders’ own priorities.

None of the leaders spoke at any length about older Iowans. What did they omit? Isn’t it true that older Iowans are a very important part of Iowa’s population? They are 20% of the population, which is the same as the national average. They are the most likely to vote, which is a significant portion of the electorate.

I was surprised to learn that fewer than 10% of the leaders spoke about older Iowans. And those few who did, didn’t mention many of the issues that are important to older Iowans.

I wish our leaders would have said:

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