It takes a village to help aging Iowans, and this state needs to step up

Editorial: While abuse and neglect of seniors frequently occurs in care centers, not having a caregiver can result in life-threatening self-neglect.

When someone has a mental or physical disability or stroke, it can be challenging to find affordable care that meets their needs. The costs for this type of care can run as high as $6,000 per month. A recent study by the National Alliance on Mental Illness found that 50% of adults with mental health conditions and disabilities do not receive the care they need. This is unacceptable. Our state must do more to help these individuals and their families.

There are many reasons why people need help from a caregiver, but it’s crucial to understand that this assistance is not just about someone doing the cooking, cleaning, and errands. It’s also about someone being there to offer support and encouragement. Caregivers can help their loved ones by providing emotional support, physical assistance, and social interaction. They can also offer practical advice, such as helping with medication management, transportation, and financial planning.

Many caregivers face challenges when trying to balance work, family, and personal responsibilities. This is a significant burden that can lead to emotional and physical strain. Our state must provide resources and support to help caregivers manage their responsibilities. This could include access to respite care, counseling, and financial assistance.

In conclusion, it’s crucial to recognize the importance of caregivers and the role they play in our society. Our state needs to step up and provide more support for caregivers and the individuals they help. We need to work together to ensure that everyone has access to the care they need and deserve.