Letter: Let’s get behind the Healthy Corner Store initiative

2:21 p.m. EDT March 9, 2015

In Asheville we continue to see the consequences of food insecurity in our schools, in our neighborhoods, and in our streets. As a high school student and staff member at Youth Empowered Solutions! I have met and worked with North Carolinians who struggle with a lack of food access every day.

More than one-third of children in N.C. are overweight or obese; the reality of this fact and the high rates of diabetes and other diet-related diseases hurt the entire community. A recent poll released by the N.C. Alliance for Health reveals that more than 90 percent of registered voters in N.C. believe that childhood obesity is a serious problem and that more than 70 percent support the creation of a Healthy Corner Store Initiative (including training and incentives for corner stores to stock healthy food) to combat this issue. This clearly shows that it is time to stop talking about the lack of healthy food access in our community and start taking action. This Initiative in N.C. will improve the availability, affordability and accessibility of healthy food options for every member of this community.

Please consider contacting your representatives and show your support of the appropriations towards this program.

Flannery Jane Rokeby-Jackson, Asheville