DURHAM —

Support healthy initiative

There are 349 food deserts in North Carolina. That is, one in five North Carolinians must travel outside of their community to purchase healthy foods. It is urgent that the North Carolina General Assembly direct funding to address this public health crisis.

Studies have shown, and common sense dictates, that the foods to which people have access are determinative of the foods they choose to eat. By making healthy foods more available, we have the opportunity to enable a wider population to prepare and consume healthier meals, thereby decreasing the number of illnesses related to the maintenance of a poor diet, including heart disease and some cancers.

The Healthy Corner Store Initiative is a critical program that will encourage the elimination of food deserts in North Carolina by promoting the sale of healthy foods in corner stores, thus increasing access to healthy foods in communities across the state. The initiative is resolved to creating infrastructure for selling healthy foods, such as fitting corner stores with refrigeration systems and display cases for fresh produce.

Because access to healthy foods, public health, and decreased healthcare costs are imperative to the health of our state, it is essential that the North Carolina General Assembly appropriate $1 million to fund The Healthy Corner Store Initiative.

Morgan Wittman Gramann
Durham