

Hitchhiking to ballot?

SEATTLE (AP) — The family of a 14-year-old Seattle girl who was murdered after she had gone hitchhiking, announced plans Monday for an initiative campaign to put the hitchhiking issue on a state ballot.

Katherine Devine, who would have been 16 on Christmas Day, was last seen alive Nov. 25 when she stood hitchhiking at a north Seattle intersection. Her partially disrobed body was found face down in the rain 10 days later in McKenny Park southwest of Olympia.

"We don't want anything to happen to anyone else," said Sherrie Devine, the 16-year-old sister of the slain girl. "We're not against hitchhikers. We just want to prevent hitchhiking."

The dead girl's father, Bill Devine, said, "If you tell a kid it's legal, you're also telling them it's safe. We figure Kathy never had an idea that anyone would do any harm to her."

The Devines must collect 117,804 valid signatures by July 5 to place an initiative to repeal the 1972 hitchhiking law on the Nov. 6, 1974 ballot.