

How to sign 'Kassidy's Petition'

ROCHESTER — If the efforts in New Hampshire and Maine to revamp the laws governing child abuse are successful, Cassidy Bortner will have done more in her short life than many accomplish in 90 or 90 years.

That was the sentiment expressed by Howard C. Hedegard Jr., spokesman for a grass-roots effort in New Hampshire to create strict penalties for those who fail to report suspicions of child abuse.

Hedegard and others involved in the effort began circulating a petition in March, and have collected

about 400 signatures. Their goal is to present their case to the New Hampshire Legislature in an effort to prevent other children from suffering the abuse Cassidy reportedly endured in the weeks before her death in November.

Anyone interested in signing "Kassidy's Petition" or assisting with the effort to amend the child abuse reporting statute is asked to contact Howard C. Hedegard Jr. by electronic mail at howard@dearchild.com or by writing to Dear Child Publications, P.O. Box 750, Epsom, N.H. 03234.