



Kamala Harris's Attack on Parents

October 15, 2024

Economic Kamala Harris's closet is her support—while San Francisco's district attorney and while running for state attorney general—for a law to punish parents for their children's absences from school.

The story, [reported by HuffPost](#), [NPR](#), and others several years ago, has more recently been [publicized](#) by Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Harris supported the harass-parents truancy program when it was conceived in the state legislature, saying that “a child going without an education is tantamount to a crime.” Under the program, which still exists, a school can refer

persistent truancy to a district attorney's office, which can then threaten to prosecute parents.

One victim was Cheree Peoples, who was arrested and handcuffed in 2013 while still in her pajamas. “You would swear I had killed somebody.” Her daughter Shayla had missed twenty days of school in the current school year. Cheree faced a possible penalty of \$2,500 or a year in jail.

Shayla has sickle cell anemia and required frequent hospitalization.

Shayla's mother fought the charges for a long time. Eventually, they were dropped.

Harris bragged about the truancy program while being inaugurated as attorney general. “If you fail in your responsibility to your kids, we are going to work to make sure you face the full force and consequences of the law.”

Today, Harris says the harass-parents law she championed has been abused by others. But isn't the law itself the abuse?

This is Common Sense. I'm Paul Jacob.