Dear Senator Bill Cassidy,

Benjamin Franklin once stated, “They that can give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.” So the question is, how must America balance security and liberty? First, we must understand what the threats are and what our government should do to handle it. Terrorist attacks on America lead citizens to become concerned about our country’s national security. Our government is based on values, and to balance the security and liberty we must find strengths in both of them and maximize that.

The assassination of the terrorist Anwar al-Awlaki has caused a great amount of controversy. It is reported that he was a United States citizen, born in New Mexico. The government issued an attack on him by drone. The attack was successful, but it also resulted in the death of his 16-year-old son, who had no connection to al-Awlaki’s crimes. I believe there should be some further investigation into the legality of the president’s decision. As technology advances, so do threats. We need to be certain we take the best actions to protect our country.

The drone’s strike reaches anyone or anything within 100 yards of the target, which makes the probability of death 50/50, and that includes innocent bystanders. Do we really want to use this form of technology if it wounds or kills innocent people? If we are targeting an individual in a foreign country, we can send in military personnel to eliminate the threat. Drones can be a good choice of weapon if we are targeting a group of people that are together and all guilty of the crime. However, using drones can reduce the number of United States casualties, but if a great number of innocent people die, it puts us at greater risk for more threats. “Societies have always sought warfare technology that creates distance between the user and the consequences of the technology.” This statement means the oceans between the United States and the Middle East will not protect us forever, as technology advances so do threats. Maybe we should rethink the relationship we have between war technology and its consequences.

Many people claimed that al-Awlaki’s constitutional rights were being violated because as a United States citizen, he has the right by the fifth amendment to a due process by law. This would have allowed him to defend himself on trial by a jury. That is where I support the President’s decision to use a drone. Anwar is certainly guilty for this act of terrorism, and as a proud American, I believe anyone who commits terrorism should be killed without trial. Although the death of his son was not necessary, it could have protected us against a potential threat.

In conclusion, I believe the use of drones to attack threats is a sound choice, although the scenarios they are used in needs to be thoroughly evaluated before we attack. If we kill too many innocent people, it will in return increase the number of possible threats on America, because the enemy country may want to get revenge. Therefore, I believe the government needs to heavily consider their options when it comes to war technology and what best balances America’s security and liberty.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Citizen