Most information contained in this letter has been declassified. Any identifiable information has been blacked out.

Blacked out Return Address

Why would you look?

This information is still classified.

June 1, 2017

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.

520 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cassidy:

As you are aware, Anwar al-Awalki and his 16-year-old son were attacked and killed by an unmanned combat aerial vehicles in the fall of 2011. The orders for the attack were given by President Obama. Even though it was illegal, it was necessary to kill al-Awalki for the protection of the ideals of United States citizens. Situations such as these beg the questions, “Does using drones in this manner best represent our national values?” and, “Are we, as a nation, efficiently balancing our need for protection with our strong desire for liberty?”

It is very challenging to identify the values of the United States as citizens are so culturally diverse and have very different opinions and beliefs. The way we currently use these combat drones does, however, represent the values reflected in our Declaration of Independence and Constitution. The Declaration of Independence shows that the values of American culture in general are independence and equality, and the Constitution depicts values of the common good and working for the greater benefit of all. To save and protect our independence and equality, the U.S. must prepare and take action by creating military drones for surveillance and weaponry. Please consider supporting the President’s policy of drone use to ensure our safety.

In the case of Anwar al-Alwalki, our nation did not effectively balance the need for security with the aspiration for liberty. Al-Alwalki and his son were citizens of the United States, where equal treatment is protected under the law. President Obama approved an order to carry out an extrajudicial killing, which basically bypasses our legal system. Since al-Awalki had not denounced his U.S. citizenship, he should have still been given due process. Personally, I feel that citizens should lose their rights when they engage in terrorism. While I believe that our protocols should be re-evaluated to ensure that citizens are given every right, I am thankful that our military is quick to respond to serious threats. As you would surely agree, protecting this nation by strengthening security is the most important priority, and that does not mean that we are inhumane; it means that we have the courage to sacrifice our freedoms to protect our home.

Our nation was founded on freedom, but with today’s increasingly dangerous global threats, security is now a vital priority in our daily lives. I thank you for continued support of the President’s national security policy and our Nation’s military strategy.

Your servant of the state,

Why did you look again?