Dear Senator Cassidy,

  In 2011­­­­­­­­­, President Obama gave the CIA permission to target Anwar al-Awlaki, a suspected terrorist living in the country of Yemen on the southern region of the Arabian Peninsula. Understandably, the purpose of this plan was to rid the world of someone very dangerous to American security; however, what complicates this is that Anwar al-Awlaki was an American citizen who happened to be with his son who was also an American citizen. Two main issues that should be focused on are the legality of this action as well as the murder of an innocent American citizen.

Our Constitution states that any American citizen, when accused of a crime, is innocent until proven guilty and is entitled to due process under U.S. law. The accused then has the right to stand before a jury and has the chance to defend him or herself against the accusations. Knowing this, President Obama launched the attack without holding a trial for the legal United States citizen. This policy of using drone technology is inappropriate because it contradicts the United States legal system and violates its citizen’s rights. Although Anwar al-Awlaki was accused of being part of one of the largest terrorist groups in the world, he should still have been guaranteed the same protections of our laws. In this case, the CIA was said to have tracked his movements for four years, coming to the conclusion that he posed a threat to the U.S. and American troops in South West Asia. It was then in September 2011, that President Obama decided to give the order for the attack without bringing Anwar al-Awlaki before a jury to plead his case. The question before you, Mr. Cassidy, is whether or not this same policy will be used against any other American citizen. What is to guarantee our safety if not the Constitution? In addition to this, an innocent American was killed in the process.

Anwar al-Awlaki was with his sixteen-year-old son when the drone strike was ordered. He was in no way accused of terrorist acts and was therefore an innocent bystander. This violates the most basic right spoken of in the Declaration of Independence, the right to life. In this case, an innocent American citizen was killed when his government should have protected him. This was done to maintain a certain high level of security in America. While the intentions of the drone strike might have been for the greater good, the government ultimately violated his liberty by trying to provide security.

I am asking that you stand for the liberty and rights of all American citizens. I ask that you uphold our Constitution by investigating this program and ensuring that our rights are not violated by a branch of government that has no accountability to the people. Allowing this to continue will only jeopardize the trust that American citizens have in the government. I am confident that you will take a stand for us.