Dear Senator Cassidy,

In the past few years, the American military has developed a new and innovative tactical defense. Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles (UCAVs) have been exposed to the public as high-tech drones that have the ability to efficiently execute threats to the United States of America. As you know, in 2011 President Obama approved a mission that resulted in the elimination of terrorist Anwar al-Awlaki. Since al-Awkali was a U.S. citizen, many have critiqued Mr. President; they claim that the Obama Administration has breached Mr. al-Awlaki’s constitutional rights as a citizen. Although every U.S. citizen protected by a constitution written in 1789, I full heartedly support President Obama in his decision to ultimately protect his loyal citizens.

Anwar al-Awlaki was not what many people would call the model U.S. citizen. According to the 9/11 Commission Report al-Awlaki, “preached to and interacted with three of the 9/11 hijackers,” **2,977 American citizens were injured or murdered during the 9/11 attacks**. On November 5,2009 U.S. Army Major Nidel Hasan killed 13 American Military personnel at Fort Hood under the instruction of al-Awlaki. On Christmas day 2009, al-Awlaki launched a plot he designed to crash a jetliner over Detroit, thankfully the plot was foiled. These are just a few of the many vicious crimes that Anwar al-Awlaki committed against the United States. He obviously did not have a problem with murdering large numbers of innocent U.S. citizens, so why should he be given the luxuries of a citizen? I believe that al-Awlaki needed to be eliminated before another major terrorist attack, such as the attacks of 9/11 repeated themselves.

The FAS released a statement defining a UCAV as, “an affordable weapon system that expands tactical mission options for revolutionary new air power as an integrated part of a system of systems solution.” In lamer terms UCAVs are innovative drones that are used in airstrikes to eliminate threats without risking the lives of military personnel. In the case of al-Awlaki, a CIA UCAV was used to kill both him and his 16-year-old son. Although al-Awlaki’s son was not a formal terrorist, he did hold knowledge of his father’s activities. In my opinion, the death of one person with strong terrorist association is outweighed both by the lives of millions of Americans and by the numerous civilian casualties that accompany land attacks. The Lebanon War of 1982 demonstrates this; according to the International Red Cross, “by the end of the first week of the war alone, some 10,000 people, including 2,000 combatants, had been killed, and 16,000 wounded—a civilian-combatant fatality ratio of 5:1.” Therefore, UCAVs have proven themselves cause much less collateral damage.

In conclusion, I completely approve of the U.S. government’s decision to use a UCAV to kill Anwar al-Awlaki. Awlaki proved to be a nefarious and cruel terrorist who has presented numerous threats to the U.S. His death made America just a little bit safer by ensuring that he never directs another attack. No constitutional rights are being violated, but rather the government is upholding their oath to ‘provide for the common defense’. I support the future use of UCAVs to eliminate potential threats and ensure the well-being of United States citizens.

Sincerely,

A Concerned Citizen