Dear Senator Cassidy:

We hope this communication finds you in good health. We are writing you in regards to the 2011 targeted killing of a suspected terrorist, Anwar al-Awlaki, in the Middle Eastern country of Yemen. We just recently learned that it was alleged by the U.S. government that al-Awlaki was a high-ranking leader of the terrorist network, al Qaeda, the group responsible for recruiting and training al Qaeda operatives and for ordering and organizing attacks against our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq according to CIA intelligence. We discovered that al-Awlaki’s movements were tracked for years and he posed a significant threat to the U.S. national security. In the same year President Obama gave an order to the CIA to launch a drone attack in Yemen on a vehicle carrying al-Awlaki. As a result of the attack, al-Awlaki’s 16 year old son was also killed. While it is tragic that his son was killed, there is no guarantee that if he had lived he would not avenge his father’s death and we would have another threat to our security. It is an unfortunate situation, but it was necessary. While we have no issue with the killing itself, many critics have voiced concern regarding the killing.

The critics strongly believed that “the Obama administration violated al-Awlaki’s constitutional rights, that as a U.S. citizen he was entitled to due process under U.S. law, which grants each U.S. citizen the right to defend himself before a jury of peers.” We do agree that U.S. citizens should have due process, but we are unsure if it should apply to someone who is capable of causing harm to innocent, unsuspecting people. As you are already aware, the administration responded by “claiming that al-Awlaki presented an imminent danger to U.S. national security and therefore was an “enemy combatant” who could be treated as a threat just as any other soldier on a battlefield.” We understand both sides and feel that the national security of the United States needs to be protected by any means necessary.

We are asking that you fully support the president’s national security policy. One reason being that although citizens of the United States do indeed have due process, the livelihood of all citizens should be taken into consideration if an individual poses a threat to the nation. Do you have any idea how many people would be affected if someone decided to attack the innocent citizens of this great country? Is it sensible to honor the rights of someone who has the potential to cause mass destruction? Absolutely not. This country was founded on the premise that we have allegiance to our country. If an individual is going to commit treason, they should have no rights. Senator Cassidy, we sincerely hope that you will consider our request and support the president’s national security policy. Think about what is best for everyone, personal feelings aside. We believe that there should be “liberty and justice for all”, just not at the expense of others.