Hudson claims he stands up for military families, but when he had the chance, he went AWOL. Even with options on how to vote, Hudson skipped out on a vote to give our troops a raise they deserve and voted to underfund the Department of Veterans’ Affairs by a billion dollars while veterans were struggling to get quality health care.

Hudson Claimed That “Caring For” Veterans And Their Families Was “Of The Utmost Importance.”

“North Carolina is fortunate to be called home by thousands of veterans. As representative of the fastest growing veteran population in Fayetteville, I’m committed to getting our veterans the care they deserve. Caring for these heroes and their families is of the utmost importance, and I will continue to fight for those who have given so much for this nation. They made a promise to defend our country from enemies, and we must ensure that we keep every promise made to them for their service. I truly consider this my most sacred honor as your voice in Congress.” [Congressman Richard Hudson, Press Release, 9/23/20]

Hudson Argued That “As Fort Bragg’s Congressman” He Understood That It Was Important To Support Military Families.

“As Fort Bragg’s congressman, I understand that the strength of our warfighters depends on not only the training and resources we provide them, but also the support we provide to their families,” Hudson said. ‘This legislation directly addresses many of the concerns I’ve heard from Fort Bragg families including reforms to strengthen family readiness initiatives such as the Exceptional Family Member Program, which provides access to health care and special needs education.’” [Fayetteville Observer, 6/2/20]

July 21, 2020: Hudson Was Absent On The Vote To Pass The Fiscal Year 2021 National Defense Authorization Act, Which Included A 3% Pay Increase For Members Of The Armed Forces. Hudson was absent on the “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would authorize $731.6 billion in national defense spending, including $704.5 billion for the Defense Department and $26.6 billion for national security programs within the Energy Department. Within the total, it would authorize $69 billion for overseas contingency operations not subject to discretionary spending caps. The bill would authorize approximately $138.3 billion for weapons and other procurement, including $5.5 billion for overseas contingency operations, $7.4 billion for F-35 series joint strike fighter aircraft procurement, and $22.3 billion for shipbuilding. It would authorize $8.2 billion for military construction. It would authorize $3.6 billion in fiscal 2021 for the Defense Department to carry out a new Indo-Pacific Reassurance Initiative to optimize the presence of U.S. forces, build allied military capabilities, and improve infrastructure and asset positioning in the region. Among other provisions, the bill would authorize a 3 percent pay increase for members of the armed forces; authorize $1 billion to establish a Defense Department pandemic preparedness national security fund, primarily to fund biopreparedness research; and require the Defense Department to prohibit the public display of the Confederate battle flag on department property and rename any assets named after leaders of the Confederacy or any armed rebellion against the United States. Within Energy Department funding, it would authorize $19.9 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration, primarily for maintenance of a nuclear weapons stockpile, and make the Defense and Energy secretaries co-chairs of the Nuclear Weapons Council. For international assistance and cooperation, it would authorize $3.5 billion for the Afghan security forces, $250 million in security assistance to Ukraine, $450 million for cooperative missile defense programs with Israel, and $374 million for a cooperative threat reduction program assisting former Soviet Union countries.” The bill passed 295-125. [H R 6395, Vote #152, 7/21/20; CQ, 7/21/20]

The House National Defense Authorization Act For Fiscal Year 2021 Gave A 3% Pay Raise To Active Duty Troops. “On, July 23, 2020, the United States Senate passed their version of the 2021 National Defense Authorization Act by a vote of 86 to 14. In-line with the President's proposal and the House's version, the Senate's rendition also contains the language to provide for a 3.0 percent pay raise for the military. The House and the Senate must now reconcile their differences contained in each bill to agree on a single version to send to President Trump for final approval. On, July 21, 2020, the House of Representatives passed their version of the National Defense Authorization Act by a vote of 295 to 125. The full Senate is projected to vote on their version later this week. Both the House and Senate's versions currently provide for a 3.0 percent military pay raise for 2021. […] The 2021 U.S. military pay chart reflects a 3.0 percent increase over the previous year in the rate of basic pay for the active components of the Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard.” [Navy CyberSpace, accessed 8/5/20]
May 2020: The House Of Representatives Instituted A Proxy Voting System By Which Members Could Vote Remotely During The Coronavirus Pandemic. “The House of Representatives is allowing lawmakers to cast votes by proxy this week for the first time, enabling members to vote remotely during the coronavirus pandemic. [...] The Democratic-controlled House passed, along party lines, the rule change allowing proxy voting in mid-May. For the proxy rule to be used, nonpartisan officials must declare a public-health emergency. This happened last week when Sergeant at Arms Paul Irving declared such an emergency, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi then declared proxy voting in place for 45 days. Ahead of a vote, a lawmaker must then send a letter to the House clerk designating another lawmaker as proxy. More than 70 House lawmakers did so this week after giving directions to their proxies on how to vote. During the vote, the proxy reads the lawmaker’s decision into the record. One proxy can cast votes for up to 10 lawmakers.” [Wall Street Journal, 5/28/20]

April 2015: Hudson Voted For A Bill That Appropriated Funding To The Veterans Affairs Department For Fiscal Year 2016. In April 2015, Hudson voted for: “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would provide $171.1 billion in fiscal 2016 for the Veterans Affairs department, military construction and military housing. It would provide $76.6 billion in discretionary spending, including $60.2 billion for veterans’ health programs. The bill would provide $94.5 billion in mandatory spending for veterans’ service-connected compensation, benefits and pensions. The total also includes $7.7 billion for military construction, including $1.4 billion for military family housing. The bill would provide $167.3 billion in advance appropriations for certain VA medical care accounts for fiscal 2017.” The bill passed 225 to 163. [H.R. 2029, Vote #193, 4/30/15; CQ, 4/30/15]

April 2015: The Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill Contained $1 Billion Less In VA Funding Than President Barack Obama Had Requested. “Addressing the Democrats at a closed-door caucus meeting in the Capitol Wednesday, VA Secretary Robert McDonald warned the lawmakers that the GOP’s $77 billion bill funding the department and military construction projects in fiscal 2016 falls short of the resources needed to provide health and other services to the nation’s veterans. Relaying McDonald’s message, Rep. Xavier Becerra (Calif.), chairman of the Democratic Caucus, said the GOP’s bill would scale back health benefits for roughly 70,000 veterans, while also denying funds for medical research, education and veterans’ cemeteries. [...] Passed with bipartisan support by the House Appropriations Committee last week, the bill provides a 5.6 percent increase for the VA over 2015 levels, but falls more than $1 billion shy of the figure President Obama had included in his 2016 budget request.” [The Hill, 4/29/15]

The Fiscal Year 2016 House Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill Reduced Veterans Affairs Medical Care By $690 Million, Leaving An Estimate 70,000 More Veterans Without The Care They Needed. “Last week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee marked up the 2016 Veterans Affairs funding bill, and slashed more than $1.4 billion from the president’s requested budget for America’s Veterans. Today, VA Secretary Bob McDonald appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee to discuss that budget proposal. While some may argue this is not a drastic move, every cut and rescission of funds has real-world implications for Veterans across the country. Here are three ways these proposed congressional cuts will adversely affect the quality of care and services provided to Veterans next year if they are not reversed: Medical Care The Veterans Health Administration has expanded access to care, completing more than 46 million appointments between May 1, 2014, and Feb. 28, 2015. That’s an increase of 2 million more completed appointments than during the same time period in 2013-2014. VA has also begun to turn the corner on wait times – 97 percent of appointments are completed within 30 days, including 12 million same-day appointments. The 2016 House proposal reduces VA medical care by $690 million. What does this mean? As a result of the overall cut to medical services, an estimated 70,000 fewer Veterans will receive the VA care they need.” [Department of Veterans Affairs, 4/21/15]

The Fiscal Year 2016 House Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill Reduced Funding For High Priority Veterans Affairs Construction Projects By $582 Million, Reducing The VA’s Ability To Provide Outpatient Care. “Last week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee marked up the 2016 Veterans Affairs funding bill, and slashed more than $1.4 billion from the president’s requested budget for America’s Veterans. Today, VA Secretary Bob McDonald appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee to discuss that budget proposal. While some may argue this is not a drastic move, every cut and rescission of funds has real-world implications for Veterans across the country. Here are three ways these proposed congressional cuts will adversely affect the quality of care
and services provided to Veterans next year if they are not reversed: [...] Also wrapped up in the cuts to medical care is a reduction of $582 million to address VA’s high priority construction projects. This cut will reduce VA’s ability to provide additional outpatient services and will impact four major construction projects, including the long sought-after French Camp Community Based Outpatient Clinic in Livermore, California.” [Department of Veterans Affairs, 4/21/15]

The Fiscal Year 2016 House Veterans Affairs Appropriations Bill Cut Funding For Veterans’ Cemeteries, Denying As Many As 18,000 Veterans And Family Members Burial Honors. “Last week, the House Appropriations Subcommittee marked up the 2016 Veterans Affairs funding bill, and slashed more than $1.4 billion from the president’s requested budget for America’s Veterans. Today, VA Secretary Bob McDonald appeared before the Senate Appropriations Committee to discuss that budget proposal. While some may argue this is not a drastic move, every cut and rescission of funds has real-world implications for Veterans across the country. Here are three ways these proposed congressional cuts will adversely affect the quality of care and services provided to Veterans next year if they are not reversed: [...] The National Cemetery Administration is consistently rated top in customer satisfaction for its work in honoring our nation’s Veterans and maintaining 3.3 million grave sites across 131 cemeteries. Proposed cuts would eliminate funding for several key cemetery expansion projects, reducing our ability to provide burial honors for as many as 18,000 Veterans and eligible family members each year.” [Department of Veterans Affairs, 4/21/15]

2015: A Government Accountability Office Report That Veterans Waited An Average Of 26 Days To Get Mental Health Care From The Department Of Veterans Affairs. “Eighteen months after a scandal broke over waiting periods for Veterans Affairs health care, the department is still struggling to manage patients’ schedules, at least in the mental health care arena where some veterans have waited nine months for evaluations, a new government report says. A review of 100 patient cases by the Government Accountability Office found that while 86 patients seeking an initial mental health evaluation generally were seen within an average four days of scheduling an appointment, they actually waited an average of 26 days from their first request for mental health treatment to get that appointment — and some waited up to 279 days.” [Military Times, 10/28/15]

2013: Less Than Half Of The Total Veteran Population Used The Veterans Affairs Health Care System. “Total enrollees of veterans who utilize the VA health care system (8.9 million in 2013)16 is less than half the current total veteran population. Furthermore, approximately 61% of all separated OEF/OIF veterans have used VA health care since October, 2001.17 This means that veterans are largely using civilian medical care facilities further stressing the need for health care providers to be well versed in veteran-specific health issues, war eras, and reintegration issues veterans face; in order to provide excellent veteran care and outcomes.” [Advances in Medical Education and Practice, Maria Olenick et al., 2015]