



# Rep. Tom Emmer on Mornings with Maria – December 22, 2025

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## **MARIA BARTIROMO:**

Joining me now is Minnesota Congressman and House Majority Whip Tom Emmer. Congressman, good to see you. Thank you so much for being here this morning. What are your expectations in the new year now that your colleagues on the left did not get what they wanted again?

## **REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, merry Christmas, Maria. Great to be with you. First off, when you talk about the Affordable Care Act, you got to remember this was the law of the land 15 years ago. Democrats passed this on their own and they promised back then, Maria, that you'd get three things. You could keep your doctor, you'd have many choices and your premiums would go down. Well, guess what, Maria? They're owed for three. And when they did this, they worked with the health insurance companies to actually draft this law. You know who's benefited in the last 15 years? The health insurance industry. They have made billions of dollars. We got to give our president credit. Not only is he reducing cost of drugs for all Americans, I mean, he went directly to the producers, got them to start to acknowledge they've got to bring those prices down so Americans can get access to the drugs that they need. But you know what? Now he's going towards the insurance industry, the health insurance industry, while Democrats are talking about healthcare, healthcare that they broke. And they're talking about enhanced tax premiums that go directly to insurance companies and only impact 7% of Americans, about 21 million people, while 300 million Americans are having 20% increases in their health insurance. We got a president who's actually going after the problem and he's going to try and solve it.

## **MARIA BARTIROMO:**

Yeah. No, it's a good analysis that you've got, but you know, these expiration of the subsidies will hit 22 million Americans. And so, you know, the Democrats use that as their reasoning to spark the longest government shutdown anyone has ever seen. Funding runs out at the end of June. How are you looking in terms of these appropriations packages to ensure that actually you can resist a potential government shutdown? Do you think you'll get the appropriations bills done or you're still at three?

## **REP. TOM EMMER:**

We're still at three, but I'm still bullish on it. I think the Democrats in fact the failed leader from the Senate Chuck Democrat leader minority leader Chuck Schumer is already signaling that they're probably not interested in a shutdown. In the meantime, there's another six bills, I understand, five or six that are ready to go. So hopefully we come back right after the new year and over 3 weeks we try to pass at least three bills a week and have it done by January 30th. Maria, that's going to be job one when we get back.

## **MARIA BARTIROMO:**



Yeah, that would be certainly very positive. Now, the president is promising bigger tax refunds for Americans in the new year due to the big beautiful bill. And I spoke with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessant on this program last week. He says we can expect substantial refunds in the first quarter. And I want to get your take on this. Watch this.

### **MARIA BARTIROMO:**

Let's go back. The one big beautiful bill was passed on July 4th, but for working Americans is retroactive to the beginning of the year. Most taxpayers did not change their withholding. So, as a result, we're going to see very substantial 100 to 150 billion of refunds in the first quarter go directly to Americans pockets. So, the sooner they file, the sooner they'll get them. Our estimate is it could be a,000 2,000 per household depending on on the number of workers.

### **MARIA BARTIROMO:**

So, Congressman, what would you say about that? And what do you think is going to be the most impactful in the first and second quarters of next year from that big beautiful bill?

### **REP. TOM EMMER:**

Well, I think the Treasury Secretary is very clear and he's right. The bill that we passed, people haven't actually seen what it's going to do. They really don't know when you say the big beautiful bill, Maria, they really don't know what's in it. Which is why we started talking about the Working Families Tax Cut Act because this is the largest tax cut in American history. What Americans are going to start to see and feel in their pocketbook begins on January 1st and the Treasury Secretary is talking about what they're going to feel through the entire first quarter. You got no taxes on tips. You got no taxes on overtime. Seniors are going to have more relief on their social security tax. It's going to be reduced. And you also have a bigger child tax credit. You have a larger standard deduction where married couples can literally reduce their taxable income by another \$1,500. And like the Treasury Secretary says, when they start seeing their refunds because nothing changed from last year except the law, which is retroactive, they're going to see some major increases in what they're getting back from the federal government into their own pocketbook. This is going to be just the beginning of what they're going to feel from the bill that President Trump signed into law after Republicans passed it last July.

### **MARIA BARTIROMO:**

I guess one of the open questions is whether or not you all will look to do another reconciliation package mid to end of year next year. Is that on the table?

### **REP. TOM EMMER:**

According to the speaker, that's something that he definitely wants to look at. Mike Johnson has talked about that. Right now though, Maria, we are, but we've got to be focused on getting these appropriations bills done. This is the push to get back to regular order and a regular appropriating process for Congress, which hasn't been done in decades. So, that's job number one. Then we'll immediately pivot to the next one. And yes, you can always expect that there's going to be discussion about a potential reconciliation bill if in fact Democrats in the Senate will not help us help President Trump help all Americans.

### **\*\*MARIA BARTIROMO:**

\*\* I understand. All right, let me get to Minnesota because the US Attorney's Office is announcing new fraud charges in Minnesota's state programs. Federal authorities are estimating that at least half of the \$18 billion



dollars that was spent on Medicaid programs since 2018, half could have been fraudulently charged. I mean, this is extraordinary. Congressman, what's your reaction here?

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