



Rep. Tom Emmer on The Scott Jennings Show – December 17, 2025

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SCOTT JENNINGS:

Welcome into the show Tom Emmer, the Republican whip, a member of the leadership team for the majority Republican party. He's from Minnesota, Congressman Emmer. There's been all sorts of activity on the Hill today. There have been votes. There have been Republicans like Mike Lawler of New York who have sided with Democrats regarding healthcare. In fact, let's hear from Lawler. I want to get your response to this and I want to get an update. Here's Lawler. Sean, do we have Congressman Lawler? We don't have it. Okay. So, anyway, here's Tom Emmer from Minnesota. Congressman, thanks for joining us today. What's going on up there today? Just give us the report.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, first off, we've got the Lower Health Premiums for All Act, Scott. And by the way, thanks for having me. I was listening to you. You're right. There's a whole bunch of activity. We got the Speed Act that we're working on, which is NEPA reforms, environmental permitting that is 30 years overdue that will streamline projects still protecting the environment but allow people to get shovels in the ground and get things moving. And you know now that the president has signed the working families tax cut act into law those permanent tax policies go into effect on January 1st and if you don't have a permitting process that works where for instance in my state polyat mine up in the northern part of Minnesota or twin metals one is waited like 15 years and the other one is over 20. Scott, we've got to get back to producing things in this country. So that speed act is one of the things that's moving yet this week. And then you've got the healthcare bill. You know, Democrats just want the issue. They want a campaign issue. They're talking about these subsidies as if they're going to solve the problem. You know what, Scott? 300 million Americans got a 20% minimum increase in their premiums this year. The enhanced premium tax credit they're talking about would only apply to 7% of Americans about 21 of the 300 million people. And by the way, it would only reduce, even if it was the right thing, it would only reduce it by about 5%. So the answer is what Republicans are doing. Republicans are looking at the unaffordable care act. And this is what we got to remind people of. Democrats passed this 15 years ago. They called it the Affordable Care Act. And they said that it would do three things. One, you can keep your doctor. Two, you'll have more choices. And three, it's going to lower your premium. Scott, they're all for three. They broke the health care system. So, Republicans want to lower cost, give patients a choice, and get to the root cause of the health care crisis. It's really not a crisis in our health care system. It's a crisis with our health care insurance, the co-conspirators in writing this bill. It is the health insurers that have been making money hand over fist while Americans get less and less. The bill that we're going to be voting on here in the House, it would increase PBM transparency. Those are private benefit managers that negotiate—

SCOTT JENNINGS:

The middleman. They're the middleman. Yeah.



REP. TOM EMMER:

Yes. The middleman give you transparency so the consumer knows if they're being ripped off. Appropriate cost sharing reduction payments to lower premiums, which by the way, this would absolutely lower premiums immediately by at least 12%. We had it in the Working Families Tax Cut Act, but Democrats in the Senate fought to have it taken out. So, we're passing it today here in the House in addition to allowing small businesses to offer employees more tailored and affordable health care options. And we're expanding access to association health plans. The list goes on and on.

SCOTT JENNINGS:

So, let's just separate these issues out because I want our audience to understand the news of the day. The House Republicans are going to put a bill on the floor, is it this afternoon, that will address all of these health care issues that you just mentioned? And if I'm not mistaken, the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO has scored this. And the Republican plan will reduce health insurance premiums by I think 11 or 12% which is more than they scored the Democrat plan. Is that correct?

REP. TOM EMMER:

That is correct.

SCOTT JENNINGS:

Okay, that's number one. I believe the bill is being I believe the healthcare bill Scott's being voted on tomorrow morning.

REP. TOM EMMER:

It'll be tomorrow morning.

SCOTT JENNINGS:

I believe is this afternoon. Yes.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Okay. So, that'll be here within the next 24 hours. So, that's what the legislative vote is going to be. But I want to go back to this other issue. Some Republicans signed a discharge petition today, I guess, siding with Democrats on their bill to extend Obamacare subsidies. We saw that news this morning. Is that actually going to happen? Have some Democrats helped or some Republicans, excuse me, helped Democrats take control of the House floor on this healthcare issue today?

****SCOTT JENNINGS:**

** Yeah. And by the way, I was just corrected. Apparently, Steve Scalise, our majority leader, has moved the vote on the healthcare bill up to tonight.



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