



## Rep. Tom Emmer on Bloomberg

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**\*\*HOST:**

\*\* where House Majority Whip Tom Emmer joins us live from the Capitol Hill Rotunda. Representative, great to have you with us. So, as we mentioned, midnight is fast approaching here. Is there any chance that the U.S. government stays open past midnight tonight?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Oh, absolutely. I mean, thanks for having me, Katie, Romaine, good to be with you guys. First off, the House Republicans actually did the reasonable and responsible thing by passing a completely clean continuing resolution. It's about a seven-week resolution to November 21st, the purpose of which is to allow the Republicans and Democrats who are involved in the conference committee, as we speak, to finish their work on appropriations bills so we can start to move back towards a regular appropriations process. They believe they're close. This gives them a little time to finish those negotiations and see if they can wrap those up. But at the same time, what we sent is exactly what Democrats in the Senate supported just six months ago, Katie. And more importantly, it's the exact same thing that they voted on 13 times under the Biden administration. I'm hopeful that they're going to come to their senses when I say they. It's really Chuck Schumer in the Senate, and that he will keep the government open because a shutdown does no one any good. And if he does choose to shut it down, it'll be the Chuck Schumer shutdown.

**\*\*KATIE:**

\*\* Let's talk a little bit more about the Senate Democratic leader. He was just speaking to reporters a couple of minutes ago. He says that the GOP has until midnight to, quote, get serious on health care. You think about some of the issues raised there. The Democrats, of course, have sought an extension of the health care subsidies and a reversal of the Medicaid funding cuts that were part of the president's tax legislation from earlier this year. What are the odds that the Republicans could budge, maybe give a little bit when it comes there or at least have some sort of promise that those discussions will continue even if we get something passed tonight?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* I think they've already been told that the discussions are going to continue, but you got to keep the government open. And what Chuck Schumer says and what actually is the case, what he's asking for are two completely different things. What he's asking for is another one point five trillion dollars in spending. What he wants to use it for is to put one point four million illegal aliens back on taxpayer funded health care. What he's asking for is five hundred million dollars for radical news outlets, support radical news outlets. What he's asking for is to cut 50 billion dollars from rural health care. So when he's talking about we got to get serious about health care, I'm not sure where he's coming from. Like he wants to give illegal aliens taxpayer funded health care and cut rural Americans health care. So really, the clean CR is the right thing to do. He knows it. Everyone in this town knows it. If he shuts the government down tonight, it is the Schumer shutdown and he's the one who's going to bear responsibility.



**\*\*ROMAINE:**

\*\* Well, I mean, I understand that. But when we talk about representative, what a shutdown means, or at least the optics, I should say, for regular folks, I'm not talking about people like you and me who understand how Washington works. I mean, when you have to go back to your district in Minnesota, assuming that there is a shutdown, I mean, what is the message that you have for those folks who are not only maybe potentially out of a job or at least have family members who are affected by this?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Call Chuck Schumer. My message is call Chuck Schumer. Tell him that this is not going to work for the 20 to 35000 Minnesotans who are either federal employees or federal contractors. It's not going to work for families who rely on different federal programs. This is not the right thing to do. And Chuck Schumer knows that he's acting purely based on political instincts rather than what's right for the American people. So I say, yes, I'm concerned. Call Chuck Schumer. Tell him, Chuck, don't shut the government down. Let's keep it open. Let's make sure that Republicans and Democrats can continue their work and get this government funded for the long term.

**\*\*ROMAINE:**

\*\* If we miss the deadline, there's been a lot of discussion, including from the president himself, about doing more than just temporary furloughs. I am curious as to what discussions you've had either with the president or with the OMB director, Russ Vought, about some of those threats to actually effectively permanently remove some workers should we actually reach a shutdown.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, I wouldn't disclose my conversations with either of those two, whether it's Russ Vought or, more importantly, the president of the United States. That's between us. But I would tell you this, if you want to avoid any of those furloughs or even beyond that that has been discussed, do the right thing. Chuck Schumer should pass the Republican clean CR. It's not partisan. Again, it's something that Democrats have done 13 times before under Biden. Romaine, what's changed? Nothing's changed except the guy that's in the White House. So don't do it based on your like or dislike for the president of the United States. Do it because it's the right thing to do for the American people. And if you don't, they're the ones that are going to answer for Chuck Schumer and Democrats are going to answer for a shutdown.

**\*\*ROMAINE:**

\*\* Let's talk about the labor market more broadly here, because there's been a lot of discussion that should the government shut down, that when it comes to the Friday jobs report scheduled at eight thirty a.m., that the Bureau of Labor Statistics won't be able to actually release that data. You think about where the Federal Reserve is. They need that data to make policy. We know that this president would like to see interest rates lower. It's harder to make monetary policy when you don't actually have the economic data that you need. So, Representative, in your view, should the BLS get a carve out here so that they're able to remain operating?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* I got to tell you, I love that you say the Federal Reserve needs to have data in order to make decisions. Jerome Powell has been months behind. He was too late dealing with interest rates under Joe Biden. I would presume it was political reasons that he delayed. But because of that, we ended up with 40 year high inflation. We hadn't seen it in four decades. Now he should have lowered interest rates quarters ago and he continues to



delay. So trying to suggest that, you know, statistics are going to make a difference in this case. There are more than enough jobs out there. If people are willing to work, they're going to find work.

**\*\*ROMAINE:**

\*\* Well, I mean, they still need the data, though. I mean, you know that, Representative. I mean, even as we're speaking right now, there are at least two Fed members addressing this issue publicly, including Austin Goolsbee, the Fed, Chicago Fed president, specifically talking about the potential of not having basically data going dark, if you will. And for a Fed that I think we all realize was kind of on this inflection point as to whether they continue cutting rates. I mean, there's the stakes for this are a little bit higher than maybe past shutdowns.

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, that's good, Romain. You can focus on government data. There's plenty of private economic data out there that can be relied on. And frankly, maybe they should have been relying on that private economic data for months now and bringing interest rates down instead of delaying, as Jerome Powell has done. So, look, if there is a government shutdown, if you're that worried about the government data, then tell Chuck Schumer, keep the government open. That he has to do the right and responsible thing, just like House Republicans did. Make sure the government continues to operate, if that's your concern.

**\*\*KATIE:**

\*\* Representative, do you have any sense here that you will actually see a number of Democrats actually break ranks and support this bill in the Senate?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* If they don't, it's going to be on them. So I do. I think you've got some senators from Maryland, some senators from New Jersey, Georgia, New York. You've got a lot of different senators, Democrat senators out there who their constituents will be impacted. And they're going to have to go home and explain to them, well, I had a chance to keep the government open and I wasn't giving anything to Republicans. I was keeping it exactly the way it is. But I chose not to because Chuck Schumer was afraid of losing his job. I think do the right thing, be responsible. I think we've got people in the Senate that will have a very difficult choice.

**\*\*KATIE:**

\*\* And just a quick final question here. Are you planning to stick around through the weekend? I mean, we have a holiday, a Jewish holiday coming up on Thursday, which I know could potentially disrupt congressional proceedings. What's happens next?

**\*\*REP. TOM EMMER:**

\*\* Well, as far as the House is concerned, we've done our work. OK, I mean, we sent a nonpartisan, clean CR. Our leadership is all here. Several members are in town. But as far as what we're going to do, it's up to Chuck Schumer and the Democrats in the Senate to make sure they keep the government open at 1201 tomorrow morning. So we're waiting to see that. Hopefully that's what's going to happen and then we can get on with the appropriations process. If if Senator Schumer is dumb enough to close the government, it's going to be on the Democrats. It's going to be the Schumer shutdown.

**\*\*KATIE:**



\*\* All right. We have to leave it there. Really appreciate you taking time for us. House Majority Whip Tom Emmer there has been representing the 6th Congressional District in Minnesota for the past decade.

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