



## Rep. Tom Emmer on State of the Union

CNN

Broadcast: April 30, 2023 • Duration: 7:43

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### **\*\*HOST (DANA BASH):**

\*\* Welcome back to State of the Union. House Republicans passed a debt ceiling bill with significant spending cuts this week meant to kick off negotiations with Democrats, but it's not clear where we go from here. Here with me now to help answer that question is House Republican Whip Tom Emmer. Thank you so much for joining me this morning, sir. President Biden, as you know, is still saying he is not going to negotiate over the threat of hitting the debt ceiling and a catastrophic default. He does say he is willing to negotiate separately over spending cuts in the nation's budget. What's wrong with that?

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

\*\* Well, actually, he doesn't have to negotiate. The Republicans in the House, led by Kevin McCarthy, have passed the solution. And I take a little issue, Donna, with the cuts language that the media likes to use all the time. This is a transformational bill. It would limit spending. The savings in it would be close to \$5 trillion over the next 10 years. And it starts out by taking a Joe Manchin idea of going back to FY 22 budget levels, which I might remind all your viewers, was passed by President Biden and Nancy Pelosi. It was just four months ago that the numbers they're talking about and then cap growth at 1% over the next decade, it would save you almost three and a half trillion dollars. So to keep calling these cuts, this is really spending reforms that will put this country on a better path. And by the way, prevents us from defaulting on our debt. So well, our recommendation is we passed it through the House, take it up in the Senate and pass. It can be the same thing at once. There are reforms, there are savings, but it does also cutting in several ways to get there.

### **\*\*DANA BASH:**

\*\* I want to go back to what you said about the fact that you passed it. Yes, you passed this bill that we were just talking about. But you know, that's dead on arrival on the Senate. I mean, it just is. So and you know that there's no way that the President is going to accept what you just put out there. So where are you on the notion of how to sit down with the President and what the parameters are of those negotiations?

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

\*\* Well, first off, the White House, since this Congress began, has had no ideas whatsoever, except jacking up taxes and spending even more money for a country that is in trouble financially. We got to get this right, Dana. And the Senate, the Schumer Senate, they have no ideas either. It's just repeated rhetoric. So to say that it's dead on arrival in the Senate, when you've got even Joe Manchin, suggesting support for this type of approach, I think that's not exactly accurate. We've got a debt ceiling, a debt issue that's going to arise, I guess now in July, is what the Treasury is saying, if they are refusing to provide any ideas. And I guess I'd put it this way, Dana, to answer your question. We've passed it. You now have the solution that is good for all of America and Americans. Pass it if you don't have any ideas. If you don't like something in it, if you have ideas of your own, our speaker is more than willing, I'm sure, to listen to those.



**\*\*DANA BASH:**

\*\* Outside of the debt ceiling, meaning the question that people are watching want to know the answer to is, can you guarantee as a leader in the United States Congress that the United States of America will not default on its debt?

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

\*\* I can, assuming that our president and the Schumer Senate recognize the gravity of the problem. This is no longer about politics. We have passed a debt ceiling solution. We will not, House Republicans will not allow America to default on its debt. We showed that last week. The solution is in the Senate right now. Again, you pass that solution, that solves the problem. By the way, where the president's going to get into it with the House is going to be over the appropriations process, because this is not the end of the job. We're moving into appropriation seasons. We've got some major bills to pass, and we've got to be looking at all the spending across this entire government. This is just one piece, and I might remind everybody, Donna, that in the last 30 years, the only real significant spending reforms that have been negotiated by Democrats and Republicans came out of debt ceiling negotiations. President Biden himself said that this was what you have to do back in 2011. Nancy Pelosi said in 2019, you can't do a no strings attached deal. Again, Kevin McCarthy and House Republicans have given you the solution. The Schumer Senate should take it up and pass it. And if you don't like it, then I suppose your next step is to start to talk to our speaker and tell him what you would like to change so that you make sure we don't default on our debt. House Republicans have already done that.

**\*\*DANA BASH:**

\*\* Let me just quickly look deep inside what you did get past this past week. The bill would cut all non-defense discretionary funding by 22 percent. That is a lot of money, and I want you to look at what the administration said it would mean just for your home state of Minnesota. Thousands would lose food, they say, rental assistance. They would pay more for college. Outpatient VA appointments for veterans could be cut. This will make a big difference if what you want, this bill actually would become law. Big difference in the lives of Americans, especially those paying living paycheck to paycheck. What do you say to them?

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

\*\* Well, I actually challenge it. You know, you've got a president who was just told by the Washington Post that his claims on the deficit get 22 Pinocchios. They're just not true. And what you just said is just not true either because you should scrutinize what the administration is talking about. What we did was you go back to FY22 baseline budgeting, Donna. That's just four months ago. That's just last year. And the budgeting, the level we're talking about was passed by Joe Biden and Nancy Pelosi. So to suggest that House Republicans are doing something now when you passed it just last year and this was the numbers you were living under, that just isn't accurate. What this would do is this would be transformational. It would put this country on a trajectory where we can start to address our budget deficit. We're spending \$1.29 for every dollar we're bringing in, Donna. This does not end well unless we start to fix this problem.

**\*\*DANA BASH:**

\*\* So just to underscore before we go, the cuts that I just laid out came from the administration. This is what they claim. You're saying that just is not true. And this is a hypothetical theoretical question because what you passed, as we said, is ultimately not going to become the law of the land. But these are very specific cuts that they put out there.

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



\*\* Again, I know that's your opinion. I would hope this becomes the law of the land and the use of cuts. These are spending reforms. And all we're doing is going back to the Biden Pelosi budget of last year, that limit. And then with Joe Manchin suggestion, limiting growth over the next decade by 1 percent annually. That's entirely reasonable. And by the way, we aren't having any substance coming from the White House, Joe Biden or Chuck Schumer Senate saying, look, this is what we should do to solve the debt ceiling. Kevin McCarthy and House Republicans have given you the roadmap of how to do that. You don't have any ideas. Let's protect this country and Americans by not defaulting on our debt. Just take the bill we passed last week, Dana. Make it law.

**\*\*DANA BASH:**

\*\* Thank you so much. Appreciate your time.

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

\*\* Thank you.

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This transcript was independently produced by MN-06 Watch for accountability and archival purposes.

Source: CNN (April 30, 2023)

Archived: February 06, 2026

Source URL: <https://youtu.be/SvTJuH-ICvM>

For questions or corrections: [mn06watch@gmail.com](mailto:mn06watch@gmail.com)