



Rep. Tom Emmer on Sunday Night in America – January 18, 2026

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TREY GOWDY:

Joining us is Majority Whip Tom Emmer from the great state of Minnesota. Welcome, Mr. Whip. Thank you for joining us. Some Democrats want to defund ICE. Most Americans don't want dead people getting government checks. How will this funding versus fraud debate play out?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, great to be with you, Trey. It's been playing out in Minnesota in a very interesting way. We've had some fraud issues in Minnesota that date back years. We've been trying to sound the alarm on these fraud issues for years. And if people are interested, they can just go look. There are letters, there are reports to the media. Nobody would pick it up and carry it. Trey, they wouldn't pick it up until Donald Trump decided on a Friday night about a month ago that he was going to put a truth out about all the Somali fraudsters and the ripoffs taking place in Minnesota. The Minnesota media that has been doing its best to ignore this stuff, including the main paper in the state, Trey, which is run by Tim Walz's former commerce commissioner, they hate Donald Trump so much that they decided to go after him. And when they did, they were unwittingly drawn into this debate. And now the whole country realizes that Minnesota is ground zero for fraud. It's estimated to be maybe \$9 billion in fraud. It's housing fraud. It's autism center fraud. It's childcare learning center fraud, which is the other piece of it. You had a freelance independent YouTube journalist who came in, Nick Shirley. And guess what? This kid found more fraud in one day than Tim Walz and our attorney general Keith Ellison have found in seven years. And you know why, Trey? Because he's been looking for it. It's pretty amazing now that people are aware of it. The reforms that we put in the big beautiful bill, the Working Families Tax Cut Act that President Trump signed into law back on July 4th with those work requirements with tightening up the verification procedures for SNAP. That's just the beginning. Congress is going to get to work on making sure that these programs are actually providing for the people that they're intended to provide for - children, the disabled, single mothers, etc.

TREY GOWDY:

All right, you put your finger on something, whip. Minnesota, they have their own money. They have state money. They can spend it. I hope nobody engages in fraud, but that's a Minnesota issue. Federal money is a little bit different. People in South Carolina, Florida, Texas, we all care what happens to our tax dollars. Can you frontload reforms into federal legislation that protect federal dollars so you're not relying on Tim Walz and Keith Ellison?

REP. TOM EMMER:

The answer to that is yes. And I mean, that's why I brought up the Working Families Tax Cut Act, the reconciliation bill that the House and the Senate managed to pass early last summer that Donald Trump signed into law on July 4th, Trey, because that was the beginning of putting some integrity measures, some



requirements into these federal programs to make sure that federal tax dollars are actually being utilized the way they were intended to be utilized. The other thing that's going on in Minnesota, which I think is a template for the rest of the country. I think you're going to see this in California, New York, you're going to see it in Illinois. You will see it in other states, it just happens to be that Minnesota is where they're beginning. You've got at least 10 cabinet members from Trump's all-star cabinet have been at work in Minnesota. You have Scott Turner at HUD last week announced he's uncovered up to \$84 million in housing fraud, and he specifically referenced almost a half a million dollars that was paid out to 509 dead tenants. You've got Kelly Loeffler at the Small Business Administration who's identified up to 7,900 loans to fraudsters that total maybe \$400 million. The list goes on and on. It is up to Congress to continue what we started last summer with President Trump in putting these integrity pieces into all legislation that goes forward.

TREY GOWDY:

Tom, before I let you go, the president wants to more closely vet people who are visiting from other countries. I mean, by the way, you don't have a right to visit the United States. What do you think that vetting looks like? Do you think it's a good idea to pause the visa button until we can more closely vet people?

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