



Rep. Tom Emmer on NEWSMAX – 2025

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GRETA:

House Majority Whip and Minnesota Republican Congressman Tom Emmer-Joyce, nice to see you again, sir.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Good to see you.

GRETA:

Your pals across the hill in the Senate, they're voting again. You're a whip on the House, but any word on how the Senate voted? What's your crystal ball say?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I think they're getting ready to vote or they're in the middle of the vote. The crystal ball is, it could go either way on this one.

GRETA:

Really, it's close?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I don't think so. I don't think it's going to pass. But we're hopeful that after the Hate America rally that took place on the mall this weekend, that now Chuck Schumer and the partisan antics, maybe they'll get three, four, five of the Democrats who understand how this partisan action is so damaging to the American people and their constituents. Perhaps they will flake off and vote with the Republicans to get the government back open. But there's little hope.

GRETA:

You don't want to discourage anyone, you don't want to discourage anyone from voting for the continued resolution today in the Senate, but what would you imagine that those who, if they do flip their vote to yes to the continued resolution, what do you think they'll say as to what changed their mind? How do they face on saying suddenly, 20 days later, I've changed my mind?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I think the only thing they can do is say that their leadership has not taken them in the right direction and that they're going to have to do what's in the best interest of the people that hired them, their constituents at home. It seems that Chuck Schumer is more afraid of these organizers of the, they call it the no kings, I call it the Hate America rally. They're more afraid of them and the primaries that they're going to bring if they reopen the government than they are of taking care of the citizens that elected them to represent them. So the win for four



or five Democrats would be, you know what, I've given him enough time, I have to vote for my constituents, it's time to reopen the government.

GRETA:

How does he survive if he gets more than four or five, or even if he gets four or five because he has led them to vote no this long? I mean, I don't understand how he survives as their leader.

REP. TOM EMMER:

I'll leave the Democrats to decide who their leaders are, but I would say that the leader in the Senate is going to be different. If not sooner, certainly after the elections in the midterms. Clearly not ready for primetime or over the hill, however you want to look at it. Leadership, Greta, is not leading people to where they are, it's leading people to where they need to be. And Chuck Schumer right now is leading them to where a very small but very loud and at times violent group of Americans are, the new base of the Democrat party. It was really ironic to see this weekend communists and Marxists referring to President Trump as a fascist, a man who, by the way, got 77 million votes, won the electoral college and won the popular vote. That is the base of the Democrat party today. I think it's a party that's dying, frankly.

GRETA:

Well, you know, you and I are both in the Midwest, so I sort of know about flights going to the Midwest. There aren't that many going to Minneapolis from here every day, so I imagine you're on a flight sometime with Senator Klobuchar and Senator Smith, both women Democrats in Minnesota. And I don't know if you get stuck in a line next to them, but do you have conversations with them at all?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I do with Senator Klobuchar every now and again. Senator Smith is doing her best to claim the shutdown is due to health care, when in fact she voted to gut the \$50 billion rural health care fund that we created back in July. So there isn't a lot of positives that we are getting from the other side of the aisle right now.

GRETA:

What are the constituents in Minnesota saying? They have two very important Democratic senators.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, the constituents that I'm talking to are telling me, stay strong. You don't negotiate when there's nothing to negotiate. This is a clean, continual resolution. It's something that not only have Democrats voted for just six months ago, they voted for the same thing 13 times under Joe Biden. The only thing that's changed is now Chuck Schumer is afraid of his future, his political future, and he's trying to hold off the rabid far left. And that's not something you negotiate.

GRETA:

If he falls flat, if Senator Schumer falls flat and everybody turns against him in the Democratic Party, both those women are going to have some explaining to do why they were supporting him.

REP. TOM EMMER:

And I'll leave that to them to explain right now. This is a mistake. I mean, literally, they're costing Americans \$400 million a day with this shutdown. You already talked about the air traffic controllers. There's some 13,000



of them. You talked about it on your opening. But you've left out the 50,000 TSA agents that also will stop getting a paycheck after this Friday. We've got 100,000 people on WIC in Minnesota. We got another 425,000 that rely on SNAP benefits, which, by the way, they all got letters that if this thing extends to the end of the month, those benefits will be at risk.

GRETA:

Let me turn to the Democratic complaint. It's it's over health care costs. And I'm not you know, there's a whole debate. I mean, there's a whole discussion with that's in this. This is only a continued resolution to continue things. But separate from that, do you have a solution, Republican Party or a plan or anything? This is this health care has been a problem, a scourge of Republicans, Democrats, Americans. Nobody's come up with a solution. But is there do you have any sort of new idea in the Republican Party how to handle it?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, I'll let our dock caucus, who are the experts at that, give you the details. But, yes, there's all kinds of pooling options that would allow people to pool with larger but similarly aligned groups in order to get the benefits that, for instance, large corporations, large fraternal organizations get. What we're dealing with right now is the failures of Obamacare. Obamacare has literally driven these higher prices over the last many years. And now Democrats want to continue to prop up prop up Obamacare when, in fact, we should be doing exactly that. Greta, let's talk about what has worked. If there's anything that has worked, let's talk about what hasn't worked and why it's driven up the costs. So the average American family of four is now paying \$25,000 a year for health care. We can do better, Greta, but we've got to be able to open the government and have that internal discussion between Republicans and Democrats.

GRETA:

You know, you mentioned pooling. Every time someone mentions it, I think to myself, I need to check on this. I think that if you're a single person, you can't get into a big pool. But you can join AARP. They don't have that 50-year requirement anymore. I think it's \$15 a year. And then you get into their pool. It's a big pool. I mean, so there are sort of sneaky ways that you get in. Not sneak. I don't mean sneak in a crafty way. But there are clever ways that you can get into some pool in the short run. But costs are just so astronomical. They're just destroying some families, you know, and something has to be done. And I don't have the answer.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, there are many different ideas out there. Let's just acknowledge what we've been doing has not been working. We have the best health care the world has to offer. We need to make sure that it's accessible to anyone and everyone that needs to access it.

GRETA:

But it's so different in terms of accessibility. Look, I'm lucky, and I've said on this show a couple times, I recently had back surgery. I had the absolute best. But that's because I have access to it. I meet so many people with back pain who just don't have access to what I do. And it makes me sick because I know the hell they're going through because I went through it for five years.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah, I would tell you, Greta, that it doesn't escape everybody. Yeah, you may be on the other end, and not you personally, but others may be on the other end of the income spectrum, so it doesn't hit them as hard. But you



talk about just solid, even upper-middle-class families in this country, especially when you start to get to your 60s, your 70s, and beyond. It becomes incredibly difficult to pay for just the basic health care needs.

GRETA:

But Medicare isn't a bad program. Medicare has been very – I mean, that's been a program since the late 60s. It may need some correction here and there, but that's actually been a pretty good program.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Actually, you just hit it. We can't just say it's been a good program. No, no, we need to fix it. I mean, even the technology of medicine has changed drastically, so the needs have changed drastically in how you do it. But it's a program. My objection to Obamacare was that we should have modeled a little bit if you're going to do something after Medicare because that has been a successful program.

GRETA:

Well, competition and transparency are the two most important things. No matter what the topic we're talking about, and especially in health care. House Majority Whip, Tom Emmer, thank you for coming in, and we'll see how that vote turns out. We'll see how your two senators vote. Always nice to see you. Thank you, sir.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Thank you, Greta.

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