



Rep. Tom Emmer on THE STORY WITH MARTHA MACCALLUM – 2025

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HOST (MARTHA):

let's bring in House Majority Whip Tom Emmer from Minnesota. Good to have you with us, sir. Thank you very much for joining us.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Glad to be here, Martha.

MARTHA:

So, you know, some Democrats say that even though they tried to use this leverage that ended up making things very difficult for a lot of people who are waiting for paychecks in this country, they say it was worth it. Watch this. Is the shutdown worth it? Yeah, I think so. I hate it. But yeah, it was worth it. Definitely. We got people to pay attention to the fact that this is a traumatic, in many cases, life or death situation for people all over this country. Was the shutdown worth it? I think it was. A little bit of a pause there. Congressman Emmer, they think it was worth it, but they're not quite sure.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, they know it wasn't worth it. Frankly, the answers are disgusting. The behavior is even more disgusting. Literally, we're going to be voting on a CR that came over from the Senate. Martha, it's the exact same CR that House Republicans sent to the Senate back on September 19th with only one change. That is that instead of having a November 21st deadline, because they burned more than five weeks on this thing with this foolish and needless shutdown, it's got a January 30th date. They're also sending over three of the appropriations bills, which were essentially done in September. This has been completely futile. They got nothing for it except they really did damage to the American people. I'm just glad that eight Democrats finally came to their senses and put the American people before their politics.

MARTHA:

So let me ask you this. What is the priority for the GOP? Because there was a promise, essentially, that health care, which is clearly suffering under rising costs, and I know the administration has done a lot to try to put a lid on pharmaceutical prices, but what is this debate going to look like over the future of ACA?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, let's talk about what the problem is. So Democrats right now are claiming, even though, by the way, they filed a 68-page bill as a counteroffer more than a month ago that demands \$1.5 trillion in new spending. And you've heard it over and over to put illegals back on taxpayer-funded health care, to blow up the rural health care fund. But the most important thing is this enhanced premium tax credit thing that they talk about, the



temporary tax credit that was created during COVID. Literally, that bill, maybe a page and a half addressed that out of the 68 pages. So, look, their claim that it was about health care seems to be pretty hollow. But let's talk about health care. Even if you did what they want you to do, health care premiums are going up by about 30 percent on average. Those enhanced premium tax credits, Martha, would be checks directly to the fat and happy health insurers instead of the American people. And by the way, they'd only cover about 5 percent of that 30 percent increase. What's the real solution? Addressing what was called the Affordable Care Act, which has really been the unaffordable care act. Since that Democrat-only law was passed, health care expenses have gone up almost 100 percent.

MARTHA:

I hear you on all of this, Congressman. But before I let you go, give me one concrete thing that is a GOP priority to fix this issue. We've heard the president talk a little bit about giving the money directly to users rather than insurance companies. Give me one thing that your supporters can look at and wait to happen as soon as the government reopens with health care.

REP. TOM EMMER:

More choice, more transparency, more competition. There's all kinds of ideas that have been developed over the last decade that you will start to see once we start moving forward. You cannot keep throwing money after a problem that you're not fixing. Republicans and Donald Trump are going to fix this problem.

MARTHA:

So you're going to get that passed with the House, the Senate and the White House in what time frame before the midterms? You would have to, obviously.

REP. TOM EMMER:

First things first, Martha, we've got to open the government first. Once we get that open, we've got to get this appropriations process done. And then you're going to see a whole host of things. You'd already talked about how the president has been going after the pharmaceutical prices. That's just the beginning.

MARTHA:

OK, we'll be watching and we hope you'll come back and fill us in on what the plan is. Thank you very much.

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