

REP. TOM EMMER ON FOX NEWS LIVE

Fox News Channel

Broadcast: January 31, 2026 • Location: Minnesota • Duration: 7:24

AISHAH HASNIE:

House Majority Whip Tom Emmer joins me now live. Good to see you this afternoon. This is now a problem for the House to take up, and you've got to get a lot of people back to Capitol Hill, and there's some bad weather out there. So I'll start with that question: Do you think you're going to have an attendance problem on Monday?

TOM EMMER:

Great to be with you Aishah, and you are asking the obvious question. With storms on the East Coast, the Northeast rolling in, flight delays, etc., we had a call with all of our members yesterday and suggested if you have any worry about being able to be here on Monday, catch a plane today, Saturday, and make sure you're here by tomorrow night. So we always with a majority of one, there's always going to be a chance that somebody runs into some trouble, but I'm pretty confident we'll have all our members and we'll be ready to get this thing done.

AISHAH HASNIE:

I wonder if you're going to need all your members, especially because we're starting to see some rhetoric come from Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, who I believe you were hoping would help you out with some Democratic votes if you wanted to pass this under a suspension. This is what he said to our chat program this week about helping y'all out, even on a rule vote. He kind of said "y'all help them, but there's going to be a cost to it." Listen here

CLIP - HAKEEM JEFFRIES:

(Reporter) Would you provide the votes on a rule? Jeffries: That's premature, our default position is that Republicans are in the Majority—they've bragged about how big of a mandate they've had all year, even though they've fallen apart, getting crushed throughout the country is their responsibility to carry the rule.

AISHAH HASNIE:

So are you going to have to do this through a rule? Because it's starting to sound like the Minority Leader might ask you for some things to give you some Democratic votes.

TOM EMMER:

Well, let's be clear. First, Mr. Jeffries is an extremely weak leader, and he's showing you that with his answers. These are bills that have already been passed by Republicans and Democrats out of the House. They're identical to what they've already voted for. So literally what he is telling you is that he can't control his members. Now, because there's this new issue about the DHS funding, they're trying to hold the Coast Guard hostage. They're trying to hold TSA hostage. They're trying to hold our great air traffic controllers hostage. Again, I'm going to tell you, this has absolutely nothing to do with ICE, because the House, led by Republicans and led by

our great president, literally has funded ICE through 2029. So this is not about the Immigration and Customs Enforcement dollars. They are literally, once again, holding America hostage. For what reason? Well, they had to create this fight that Americans don't want. Americans want to see this settle down. They want to see their local law enforcement work with feds so they don't have to have an overwhelming number of federal law enforcement in their states, in their cities, in towns like we have right now in Minnesota—because of the refusal to cooperate by people like Tim Walz and Keith Ellison and Jacob "small" Frey.

AISHAH HASNIE:

It sounds like what you're saying is you can't work with the minority, so you're going to have to pass this through a rule?

TOM EMMER:

Let's be clear: We can't trust the Minority Leader to be able to get his members to do the right thing. That's the issue.

AISHAH HASNIE:

Was this a smart move in the Senate to cut this out and sort of give a little bit more leverage to Democrats for the next two weeks? Now they can come up with all sorts of demands for ICE. We don't know. That's a question here It's not so much even about government funding. It's about what ICE is going to look like after all of this.

TOM EMMER:

Again, we have funded ICE through 2029. There was \$30 billion in the "Big Beautiful Bill," the Working Family Tax Cut that was signed into law last July. So the White House—when you ask about what they did in the Senate—this was a White House preference. The White House, with Leader Thune, figured this was the best way to do it. They had an agreement with Chuck Schumer that this is how they were going to do it. And now you can see, as it's coming back over to the House, apparently the Minority Leader in the House doesn't have any control over his membership. So we'll have to do this with Republican votes, and we'll get it done.

AISHAH HASNIE:

I know you're on the ground in Minnesota before you come back to Capitol Hill. I believe you're going to try to meet up with Tom Homan while he's down there. He's only been there five days and has already brought a little bit of calm, at least to some of the leaders there. He still is trying to get some cooperation with local law enforcement on handing these bad guys over. This is what he said about honoring those detainees:

CLIP - TOM HOMAN:

He didn't say they would honor those detainees, he said they can notify us before they release them, give us time to get there and take them into custody to a safety security facility, and we're working on that.

AISHAH HASNIE:

So he's talking about AG Ellison. They're basically saying that we don't have a deal, but you can go and talk to sheriffs' departments and basically ask them, "Will you work with us? Will you work with ICE?" For the time that you've been on the ground there, do you see a difference in the last couple of days of Tom Homan being there? Do you feel like the mayor and the governor are playing ball?

TOM EMMER:

Actions are going to speak louder than words. I spoke with Mr. Homan a couple days ago, and you're right, I'm planning on sitting down with him while I'm here. He has brought a different level of calm because he's being very clear. The issue is Keith Ellison and Tim Walz have made it very clear to all of our sheriffs, all of our police chiefs: You are not allowed to detain any criminal illegal—a rapist, a murderer, a pedophile—you're not allowed to hold them in your jail until a representative from federal law enforcement can arrive and retrieve them. This is what our sheriffs—by the way, I said, who I have spoken with—would like to do. This would all settle down overnight if they were allowed to do what they've been doing for years, which is literally: You pick up one of the worst of the worst, your local law enforcement is the one that's engaged with them, they start them through the booking process, they realize that they are a criminal illegal that's not supposed to be here, they contact federal law enforcement, who sends out the appropriate person. And you heard Tom Homan in the clip that you played: It's one officer that comes and picks them up, versus now you've got to put all these officers on the street to do the job of local law enforcement as well. President Trump's been very clear—President Trump's been very clear—we are going to enforce federal laws. We are going to get the rapists, murderers, and pedophiles out of our country that are here illegally. And that's what everybody wants.

AISHAH HASNIE:

We will follow the government funding ordeal. I believe that you're trying to get a vote done on Monday. We'll see if it happens. We'll see if you can get that attendance together by Monday. Great to have you on. Good to see you.

TOM EMMER:

Thank you.

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

Source: Fox News Channel (January 31, 2026)

Archived: February 02, 2026

Source URL: https://youtu.be/8-SMZ3Lbr_g

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