



Rep. Tom Emmer on FOX 9 MINNEAPOLIS – 2025

FOX 9 LOCAL

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HOST (ROB):

Joining us now, House Majority Whip and Minnesota Congressman Tom Emmer. Joining us, Tom, thanks for joining us here, appreciate you taking the time on what has been certainly a very, very busy day for you. Let's start here with when you think this vote might occur, and I know that the last I saw in an interview you did earlier this morning is a projected vote, maybe 219, 213, and how you think that that margin will hold.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah, well, thanks for having me, Rob. First off, the vote will, it's scheduled right now, the procedural vote is scheduled to be between 4.30 and 5.30. The House will open up at 4 o'clock, and then they will have a swearing in ceremony for a new member from New Mexico. The hope is that between 4.30 and 5.30, we can vote on the procedural aspect of the bill, and then the bill would be called up again. If everything went smooth, which I will just tell you, Rob, he doesn't always do that. If everything went smooth, you could be voting on the bill between 7 and 8 tonight. But as you probably have heard me tell others today, we're having, our members are having the same problems that most Americans are having trying to travel. So we've got members who have been working in their districts now for the better part of a month. They've been trying to work with people who have been impacted by this needless shutdown. Now they're all trying to get back as fast as possible, and assuming we get everybody in this afternoon on time, we should be able to get it moving. Otherwise, there might be some delay while we wait for a couple of the flight problems to get resolved.

ROB:

Okay. This is a continuing resolution, I understand, until the end of January. Explain to us the mechanics here of, you know, if this funds until then, then what happens at the end of January?

REP. TOM EMMER:

So Rob, first off, this is the exact same continuing resolution that House Republicans sent to the Senate back on September 19th. In fact, the only difference in the CR portion of it is that we took the November, or the Senate took the November 21st date, because obviously you've burned five to six weeks of that time already, and move that to, as you point out, January 30th. The other thing that they did with this bill is they're sending over three of the appropriations bills. Remember, the continuing resolution was necessary to finish the appropriations process for this year's budget. They were close. We're trying to get back to a regular order appropriations process that hasn't been done around here for years. Republicans and Democrats, in fact, had both made motions in the House and the Senate back in early September to go to conference. Rob, that hadn't happened on appropriations bills since like 2019. So we were moving in a smart fashion towards getting the 12 appropriations bills done. This CR is coming over with three of those bills attached to it. They call it a minibus. I don't know why that makes sense, but it's legislative affairs, or ledge branch, they call it, the legislative branch funding. It's the agricultural appropriations bill, and it's the military construction and Veterans Administration funding. Those are all done. They were essentially done back in September. They just needed some T's



crossed and I's dotted. I'm told there's anywhere from three to six more that are ready to go, and they're going to move on those in quick order. The goal would be to get all 12 of them done well in advance of that January 30th date, because then you'd have funding through next September.

ROB:

Okay. You know, a lot of this is, you know, without wading too much into the partisan sort of bickering back and forth, but, I mean, the holdup here has been concerns from the Democratic side about continuing subsidies for the Affordable Care Act, which you have called the Unaffordable Care Act, saying that it's actually driven up insurance costs or healthcare costs. How do you kind of rectify that as we move into next year, trying to solve what you see are problems with that, but with the concerns from the other side saying, well, we don't want millions of people to lose their healthcare coverage? I mean, there's some wrangling to do there to try to please everybody.

REP. TOM EMMER:

I wish this would have been about healthcare, but it wasn't. I mean, and that's a fact. That's not bickering. That's not. All you got to do is look at their alternative plan that they filed in the Senate. It's 68 pages long, Rob, and out of that 68 pages, about a page and a half even dealt with this topic. The rest of it was \$1.5 trillion in new spending, trying to put illegals back on taxpayer funded healthcare, blowing up the \$50 billion rural healthcare fund that we created back in July. So I mean, that's fact. That's not me just saying it. I'm sure what you're going to hear today is you're going to hear, well, the Republicans created this so-called healthcare crisis. No, no, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle did when they passed something called the Affordable Care Act. That is also fact, that your healthcare costs are up almost 100% since the Affordable Care Act was created. We're all, Republicans, Democrats, everyone's got to get in this thing and start working on reforming that law so that you can have more competition, you can have more choice, you can have more transparency. The ideas have been out there for a decade plus, Republicans and Democrats need to get together on that. But in the meantime, this idea that these temporary enhanced premium tax credits are somehow going to solve the problem. First off, Democrats created this during COVID because of extraordinary circumstances. Democrats had a deadline of the end of this year where these temporary enhanced tax credits were going to go off the books. Now they say we've got to extend them for a year. But what they're not telling you, Rob, is we're going to have an average of 30% premium increases. Health insurance premiums are going to go up on average about 30%. These enhanced premium tax credits are only going to address about 5% of that. The issue is not the enhanced tax credits. The issue, frankly, is what are the ideas on both sides of the aisle that are going to actually drive costs down so Americans, all Americans, can afford to have access to the best health care in the world?

ROB:

All right. We've got about a minute or so, maybe less than that, left with you and your time. I just want to ask you, as the guy that's in charge of whipping the votes, this is projected to pass, in your view, at this point. Is that a narrow margin?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Yeah, well, we have two votes to work with always. This is our country right now, and yeah, it's going to pass. The thing that will surprise me is if our Democrat colleagues, including my Minnesota Democrat colleagues, vote no. Because a vote no is to keep the government shut down, Rob. And we've seen how that's worked, whether it's air traffic controllers, it's our military servicemen and women, it's the 42 million low-income Americans that have their SNAP benefits put at risk. I mean, I would hope all of us would vote to end this



nonsense. Let's get back to doing the job that we were all hired to do, and let's make life better for Americans. I think we can do that.

ROB:

OK. Tom, thank you so much for joining us from D.C. I know it's been a very busy day. I appreciate you carving out a few minutes for us here back in the Twin Cities.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Good to be with you, Rob.

ROB:

Congressman Tom Emmer from Minnesota, the House Majority Whip.

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