



Rep. Tom Emmer on FOX NEWS RUNDOWN – DECEMBER 15, 2025

FOX NEWS RADIO

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HOST:

House Majority Whip Tom Emmer.

REP. TOM EMMER:

I don't care what your, where you come from, what your political persuasion is. I mean, this is a human thing. And we, it's got to stop. And it's not the guns. We've got a serious mental health issue, a crisis going on in this country. People are getting, I, they're just out of control. And I feel for all the families who were impacted and will be impacted going forward? And I hope that the authorities are able to close this out quickly so that the families and frankly the community and all of us can get some closure.

HOST:

Amen. All right, let's dig into a major scandal in your home state of Minnesota. Federal prosecutors describe what happened in Minnesota as one of the largest pandemic era fraud schemes in American history. What are your biggest takeaways from this investigation so far?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, it actually predates the pandemic. Sadly enough, I, you know, you almost have to put it in perspective this way, Mike. There was a Democrat in the attorney general's office back in 2017 and 2018 by the name of Lorie Swanson who was investigating and prosecuting Somali daycare fraud. Now, let me make it clear before I go through this that not all Somali are bad. We've got Somali here in Minnesota who are trying to assimilate, who are entrepreneurial. In fact, we had Somali for Trump in my district last summer. But it just so happens that 90% of people charged with these crimes are coming from the Somali community. So that it's got nothing to do with where they come from. It's got to do with criminal activity. So Lorie Swanson investigating 2017 2018, she runs for the Democrat nomination for governor against Tim Walz. At the same time, Ilhan Omar's predecessor, the guy who gave us Ilhan Omar, who's a bit of an embarrassment to an understatement, embarrassment to my state, is Keith Ellison. He's running for attorney general. Mike, the second he got elected attorney general in the attorney general's office, he made a rule there would be no further investigations without his express approval. Since that happened, there have been no investigations. And you talk about the largest pandemic fraud case in history, \$250 million people have been announced, indicted, numerous of them have been convicted. 90% of the people indicted are from the Somali community. But it goes beyond that. It's over a billion dollars and they're counting. And this is all under Tim Walz and Keith Ellison's watch. And frankly, we got to find out how over a billion dollars in taxpayer money not only came out of the federal government without anybody noticing, but much of it was shipped to Somalia, which is controlled by al-Shabaab, a known terrorist group. Republicans in Minnesota have pointed to state leadership not taking this seriously even after those whistleblowers came forward. What role should federal oversight play in cases like this? And what reforms are Republicans pushing?



HOST:

Well, first off, Jamie Comer, my friend from Kentucky, who's the chair of our oversight committee, is doing exactly what he should be doing. He has opened up an investigation. They are going to be engaging with all the whistleblowers. They're going to chase every single dollar from where it came out of the federal government into the Minnesota state government and how it was somehow fraudulently billed out of the government to Somalia and then to a lot of these criminals and then to Somalia and al-Shabaab that is entirely within his jurisdiction and I think he's more than capable of actually creating some transparency so that we can hold the guilty parties, we can hold them accountable. By the way, the US attorney Dan Rosen was quoted last week on a national program saying the responsibility for this fraud goes to the highest levels of Minnesota state government. So, that will remain to be seen. Jamie will I'm sure do a fantastic job and hopefully he could do it very quickly and efficiently. As we look at the calendar, there's limited legislative time between now and Christmas and obviously the end of the year. Without a deal, Obamacare premiums will soar for millions of Americans starting in the new year. There have been a variety of proposals from Republicans in the House and the Senate. How does this play out? Do you get a deal done by year end?

REP. TOM EMMER:

I appreciate it my this topic but we got to quit calling it by the former president's name. I know that's a common thing. It was called the Affordable Care Act.

HOST:

True.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Democrats and Democrats only passed it 15 years ago. Yes, it was signed into law by Obama, but remember what they promised 15 years ago? One, you can keep your doctor. Two, you'll have more choices. And three, they promised your premiums were going to go down. Since that they're 0 for three, by the way, since that time, the premiums have gone up by some 1,700%. They're co-conspirators in breaking our health care system where the big fat rich and happy health insurance companies. While health insurance companies have been making money hand over fist, Americans have found it more and more difficult to afford health insurance products that would give them access to the best health care in the world. Here's the dirty little secret. The enhanced tax credits that you're talking about, there are 300 million plus people in America. Those enhanced tax credits which Democrats set up to expire at the end of this month. It was only a three-year enhancement. It was put in place because of the alleged crisis caused by the pandemic. It only applies to 21 million Americans at most. 300 million Americans are going to see their premium skyrocket by another 20% on average this year. And by the way, this idea that only the 21 million should be affected is ridiculous because even if we do the enhanced premium tax credits, which we may do something in order to soften the blow, I'm not going to rule it out. That's up to the speaker. But even if you do that, that's only going to cover about 4% of that 20% increase. The real issue here is going after the root of the problem. It's about health insurance. I think Jamie Comer again, I think his committee is going to be calling a lot of these corporate executives in front of Congress to explain why it is that Americans keep struggling to afford health care insurance and they just keep cranking it up. In the meantime, I think you're going to see Republicans in the House before the end of the year pass something that increases PBM transparency. Those are the benefit managers, the middleman that affect the cost of some of these products. We're going to do cost sharing reduction payments which by the way will directly lower premiums. We had it in the big beautiful bill and Democrats in the Senate pulled it out. It would reduce premiums by 12%. We're going to allow small businesses to offer employees more tailored and affordable health care options. We're going to expand access to association health plans by allowing



employers, including self-employed workers, to band together across industries, to purchase affordable, high-quality coverage. And there's all kinds of other ideas. But I think we've got to almost reformat the discussion. The real issue is Democrats broke the health care system 15 years ago with the help of the health insurance industry that has been making all the money. It's time that Donald Trump and Republicans go in and fix this thing.

HOST:

Okay. Another huge issue heading into a midterm election year is affordability. Do you expect that some components of the big beautiful bill will kick in in the new year so people feel better about affordability before November's midterms?

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