



Rep. Tom Emmer on GMA3: What You Need to Know

Broadcast: January 18, 2024 • Duration: 3:56

HOST:

Now from Washington, D.C., is lead sponsor of the bill, House Majority Whip and Minnesota Congressman Tom Emmer. Good to see you, and thanks a lot for being with us today.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Great to be with both of you. DeMarco, Eva, thanks for having me this afternoon.

HOST:

Of course. So how would this bill expand mental health care on a national level?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, first we have to just put it in context for your viewers. We have a mental health crisis in this country, and we have a shortage of care facilities, beds, if you will, for people with mental health challenges. And, in fact, the NIH in a 2021 study, DeMarco, said that we are off by about 40 percent. And if what this bill does is it would allow mental health hospitals and other facilities to apply for federal hospital mortgage insurance. In 1968, Congress passed the Fair Housing Act, which had Section 242 in it, which to incent people to build hospitals and expand hospitals, they created this federal hospital mortgage insurance, but they excluded mental health facilities. And what we're trying to do is correct that, because we've got this severe shortage. And the longer we don't deal with it, you probably know, we're pushing people with serious mental health issues into homeless centers, into hospital emergency rooms, and worse yet, into our jails.

HOST:

So the big point of this bill is to create more beds, because you say there's a bed shortage when it comes to these mental health hospitals. How does that impact this mental health crisis that we're seeing?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, if you think about it, when you're sending someone who has a significant mental health crisis back out onto the street, if they were initially seen in an emergency room and were sending them back onto the street, it's just a matter of time before they harm themselves or perhaps worse yet, others, and they may end up in the legal system. We need to treat the condition. This is no different than having a broken leg. People have mental health challenges that we can treat, and we want to be able to treat them in an extended setting, right, inpatient mental health facilities, so that we can return them to productive members of society. I think that should be everyone's goal.

HOST:

We have to ask you about the race for the White House. Former President Trump had a big win in Iowa earlier this week. What do you think this means for the Republican Party as we head into New Hampshire, which is



coming up next?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, I mean, it's pretty clear to me that what it means is people are motivated to get out and vote. Looking at Iowa, where you had 10 to 20 below zero in some places, and people are still participating in the process, it shows you the level of their intensity and their motivation. And quite frankly, I understand it. You've got double-digit inflation. You've got unrest all around the world. People have serious concerns, and they're worried, and they're getting involved in the process. And it looks like Donald Trump will have the same experience in New Hampshire. He should win New Hampshire. And it's very likely, well, I think he's going to be our nominee. And it's time to unify if we're going to make sure that we have a change in the White House.

HOST:

And with that said, Vivek Ramaswamy just dropped his bid for presidency, and he suggested that Nikki Haley and Ron DeSantis do the same thing. Your thoughts?

REP. TOM EMMER:

Well, listen, unlike others, I like all of these people. I've worked with every one of them. They've put in serious time and effort to their campaigns. And I appreciate that. But I do agree with Vivek that it's time to unify on the inevitable so that we can actually have a chance to take back the White House.

HOST:

All right, Congressman Tom Emmers, what a pleasure having you on. Thank you, and come back.

REP. TOM EMMER:

Thank you, guys.

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

Source: (January 18, 2024)

Archived: February 05, 2026

Source URL: <https://youtu.be/2i3-9lfyDfs>

For questions or corrections: mn06watch@gmail.com