# Republican Representatives Support Trump in Hush Money Trial Amid Controversy



On May 16, 2024, Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) and Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colo.) appeared in Manhattan Criminal Court to support former President Donald Trump during his hush money trial. Gaetz invoked Trump's controversial 2020 debate remark, “Proud Boys, stand back and stand by,” in a social media post, echoing language tied to the far-right group whose leaders were convicted for their role in the January 6 Capitol riot.

Trump is facing 34 counts of falsifying business records in connection with payments made to porn star Stormy Daniels before the 2016 election. Trump has denied the affair and pleaded not guilty. House Speaker Mike Johnson and other GOP allies have also attended the trial, criticizing Judge Juan Merchan, who has imposed and fined Trump for violating a gag order.

Key witness and former Trump lawyer Michael Cohen faced tough cross-examination from Trump’s defense, focusing on Cohen’s credibility and past crimes. The trial's proceedings resumed amid significant media and political attention.