

1. According to the Texas Chronicle:  
“As passed, SB 4 allows local law enforcement officers to question the immigration status of people they detain or arrest and punishes local government department heads and elected officials who don’t cooperate with federal immigration “detainers” — requests by agents to turn over immigrants subject to possible deportation — in the form of jail time and penalties that exceed \$25,000.”<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Aguilar, J. (2017, November 07). Texas back in federal court over anti-"sanctuary cities" law. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <https://www.texastribune.org/2017/11/07/texas-sanctuary-cities-law-federal-court/>

2. “Texas is our home, it’s part of the Latino community, and there is no better way to show this than to have a quinceañera bash at the Capitol with girls wearing bright colorful dresses, dancing to songs in English and Spanish that show the mix of who are in the community,” said Cristina Tzintzun, founder of Jolt Texas, the organization planning the event. “This celebration of culture is a call for action against SB 4 by showing the symbolization of young Latinas’ coming of age and recognizing their responsibility to their community.”<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Martinez, A. (2017, July 17). From Quinceañera to Protest: Tejana Teens Fight SB 4 Immigration Law. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://latinousa.org/2017/07/17/quinceanera-protest-tejana-teens-fight-sb-4-immigration-law/>

3. “As an adult and a Latina, I should be the voice and the caretaker of those who can’t speak for themselves,” said Magdalena Juarez, a Jolt Texas volunteer. Juarez told Latino USA that she is excited for the Wednesday protest against an SB 4 bill she refers to as “a discriminatory and unfair bill that should not have been passed.”

“What the Latino community and immigrant community is facing right now whether from threats of repealing Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) to laws like SB 4 in Texas makes many in our community feel fearful and afraid and we want to show that not only we are resisting tendencies like that but we are celebrating who we are,” Tzintzun added.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Martinez, A. (2017, July 17). From Quinceañera to Protest: Tejana Teens Fight SB 4 Immigration Law. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://latinousa.org/2017/07/17/quinceanera-protest-tejana-teens-fight-sb-4-immigration-law/>

4. The idea for Quinceañeras at the Capitol came happened when Tzintzun and a Jolt Texas volunteer spotted three girls taking their quinceañera photos the Texas Capitol.

“I thought ‘what a beautiful image,’ it shows that we are Texas, Texas is our home and we are not going anywhere,” said Tzintzun. For the Wednesday event, the 15 young women will wear large, bright quinceañera dresses and share 15 reasons why they’re resisting SB 4. They will also perform a dance piece to “Somos más americanos” (We Are More American) from Los Tigres Del Norte and “Immigrants (We Get The Job Done)” from Hamilton.

After the performance, the quinceañeras will visit legislators who supported SB 4.

They plan to give these legislations gifts such as flowers and a card of them in their quinceañera dresses holding up their “ramo” (flowers bouquet) in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty to symbolize that “they too are America as much as anyone else is.”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Martinez, A. (2017, July 17). From Quinceañera to Protest: Tejana Teens Fight SB 4 Immigration Law. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://latinousa.org/2017/07/17/quinceanera-protest-tejana-teens-fight-sb-4-immigration-law/>

5. “When Cristina (Tzintzun) started Jolt she encouraged me to become involved,” Sanchez said. “I told her, ‘You do know I am undocumented’ But then I realized we have to show people we have a voice. We don’t have to be scared...”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Bolaños, C. (2017, July 18). In Sparkly Ruffled Dresses, Quinceañeras Are About To Flood The Capitol To Protest A Texas Bill That Affects Thousands Of Latinos. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <https://www.jolttx.org/en/sparkly-ruffled-dresses-quinceaneras-flood-capitol-protest-texas-bill-affects-thousands-latinos/>

6. 17-year-old Maggie Juárez choreographed the dances, and for her, SB 4 is a deeply personal issue.



Photo by Julia Shumlin. Courtesy of Jolt

“Both my parents are immigrants, as well as most of my family,” she told Remezcla in a phone call. “I’m first generation, so it’s just mainly the fact that my parents and my community are getting discriminated against and are getting racially profiled for something they can’t really help. They can’t help the way they look, how they were born, and I don’t feel it’s fair, especially because it’s specifically targeting one community. We’re just being disrespected in our own homes, and it’s not something that sat right with me.”<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Simón, Y. (2017, July 20). Meet 5 of the Tejana Teens Who Made This Quinceañera-Themed Protest a Success. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://remezcla.com/features/culture/meet-the-quinceaneras-at-the-capitol/>

## 7. Viridiana Sánchez, No Profiling

“I want every Latino here to know that we are 11 million, 40 percent of the population, here in Texas,” she told the crowd. “So if these racist politicians think we’re going to come back down from where we came from, we’re not, because our ancestors have worked way too hard for us to be where we are.”<sup>7</sup>



Emelyn Macias, pictured center in the first row, and other quinceañeras stand outside the Texas Capitol protesting Senate Bill 4. Photo by Julia Shumlin. Courtesy of Jolt

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<sup>7</sup> Simón, Y. (2017, July 20). Meet 5 of the Tejana Teens Who Made This Quinceañera-Themed Protest a Success. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://remezcla.com/features/culture/meet-the-quinceaneras-at-the-capitol/>

## 8. Emelyn Macías, Equality

“As a proud Latina, I can say that SB 4 discriminates the Latino community,” she said. “This land is meant for everyone to have equal rights. What SB 4 is doing is taking our rights away... It’s a right for Latinos to have the same employment opportunities, social benefits, and health care as others. We tend to hear a lot in the media many politicians talking about equal rights for everyone. It’s 2017, and it’s as if segregation and racism just keeps getting worse. Laws like SB 4 violates Latinos’ rights based on the color of their skin. This is attacking our community, but we will fight back.”<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Simón, Y. (2017, July 20). Meet 5 of the Tejana Teens Who Made This Quinceañera-Themed Protest a Success. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://remezcla.com/features/culture/meet-the-quinceaneras-at-the-capitol/>

## 9. Alexandra López, No Violence

“I’m standing against violence,” she said.

“SB 4 is a law that will make our community afraid to report crimes. Already, we have seen Latinas too afraid to report rape because they are scared [of] being deported. To all of these Latinas out there, know this: You are not alone. We are standing with you.”<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>9</sup> Simón, Y. (2017, July 20). Meet 5 of the Tejana Teens Who Made This Quinceañera-Themed Protest a Success. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://remezcla.com/features/culture/meet-the-quinceaneras-at-the-capitol/>

## **10. Julia Pierce, Family Unity**

“I stand for families,” Julia stated. “The quinceañera is a celebration of girls coming of age and transforming into a woman. SB 4 has the potential of tearing families like ours apart. As Latinas, our families are a source of strength, love, and security. We will not let our families be put in danger, and we will not let them be taken away.”<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Simón, Y. (2017, July 20). Meet 5 of the Tejana Teens Who Made This Quinceañera-Themed Protest a Success. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://remezcla.com/features/culture/meet-the-quinceaneras-at-the-capitol/>

## **11. Maggie Juárez, No Hate**

“We are here to take a stand against Senate Bill 4, the most discriminatory and hateful law in recent history,” Maggie said on the steps. “When Gov. Greg Abbott signed the bill into law on May 7, he disrespected my community. He put a lot of Texas in danger. SB4 is not only an attack on immigrant communities; it threatens the lives of all people of color. When SB 4 goes into effect on September 1, it will allow law enforcement to ask people who look foreign for their documentation. It will force public officials to enact Trump’s mass deportation agenda and may make some victims of crime too scared of the law to seek help. The bottom line is SB 4 makes simply being brown illegal...

“Today I stand for myself, I stand for all of you, I stand for all undocumented people, for all Latinos and for all people of color. I stand for my parents who immigrated here and will not let hateful policy tell them that they don’t belong.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> Simón, Y. (2017, July 20). Meet 5 of the Tejana Teens Who Made This Quinceañera-Themed Protest a Success. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <http://remezcla.com/features/culture/meet-the-quinceaneras-at-the-capitol/>

12. What do organizers hope to gain as an outcome?



CREDIT: Jolt TX.

“We want to show the government that we are connected and not ready to give up,” Sanchez said.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Bolaños, C. (2017, July 14). In Sparkly Ruffled Dresses, Quinceañeras Are About To Flood The Capitol To Protest A Texas Bill That Affects Thousands Of Latinos. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <https://wearemitu.com/things-that-matter/quinceaneras-will-waltz-to-texas-capitol-to-prot est-sb-4s-anti-immigration-law/>

13. Dallas Rep. Rafael Anchia, D-Dallas, greeted the girls on the south steps of the Capitol and thanked them for protesting the sanctuary cities ban.

"Quinceañeras are oftentimes a rite of passage for young ladies in our community who are passing into womanhood," Anchia said. "It's important to note that they put their quinceañera outfits on today because as daughters of immigrants, they often have to become women earlier — they have to become women and go to work, they have to become women and help their parents." Anchia said Democrats would continue to work to defeat the sanctuary cities ban. The state's largest cities, along with some counties and civil rights organizations, are challenging the law in court.

"While we weren't successful during the legislative session, we're going to continue the fight not only in this Capitol but in the courts, and we expect to be successful," Anchia said. "These young women deserve all our support and all our gratitude because not only are they brave enough to be here and fight on behalf of their parents, but they're the future of this state and they're the future of this country."<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>13</sup> Barragán, J. (2017, July 19). Teen girls wear quinceanera dresses at the Capitol to protest sanctuary cities ban. Retrieved July 20, 2018, from <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/texas-legislature/2017/07/19/teen-girls-host-quinceanera-capitol-protest-sanctuary-cities-ban>

## 14. Slide Show.