Asian immigrants generally. Exclusion Act of 1882, restricting immigration of later, in 1882, Congress promulgated the Chinese virtually nothing to restrict immigration. In most weren't restrictive federal immigration laws in place can countries. Eleven percent come from South and tors did it, why can't they?

Why don't they come here legally? Why don't the document can be found on www.usccb.org along Bishops' Migration and Refugee Services. The full

Why don't they come here legally? Why don't the

Paco Malone is communications director for Catholic Charities of Idaho.

Commonly asked questions about immigration, work visas, asylum status

The following is excerpted from a document pro

The deflection of Child for Aid in Immigration - DACA was established on June 15, 2012, by then-President Barack Obama. DACA defies unauthorized holdings for two years for qualified individuals who were brought to the United States illegally when they were children, and also provides a renewable work visa. DACA does not, however, provide permanent lawful residency. The help from Catholic Charities of Idaho (CCI), Paco applied for and has received DACA status. Paco has worked for his current employer since 2014, has advanced in his position and is now certified through Idaho State as a Professional Seed Treat Appraiser and certified to drive heavy construc- tion equipment. He is often placed as a team lead of a small crew.

Paco continues to work with Catho- lic Charities of Idaho, to complete and submit the proper papers to become an LPR. Before the law was a four-year gap between becoming an LPR and initiation of the DACA program, Paco’s status during that time is one of “unlawful presence.” Consequently, he must first get a properLovewhich is being considered for permanent residency. CCI has helped Paco and his wife comply with the law and build a case for the hardship he and his wife would suffer if he were to be deported. To be eligible for a provisional waiver, Paco must demonstrate that if he is refused admission to the United States, it will cause extreme hardship to his wife, a U.S. citizen.

Almost all of Paco’s family’s ties are here, not in Mexico. He has two younger brothers, ages 15 and 7, who are both U.S. citizens. He has just one uncle who remains in Mexico, and because Paco was very young when he moved to the U.S. with his parents, he has little memory of, or association with his Mexican birth town or his remaining family. Belongence is a problem in his home- town, and drug cartels are nearby.

Paco hasn’t been back to Mexico since he was 10, and although he speaks fluent Spanish and English, he doesn’t have a support network in Mexico. In this country, he has a good job that pays well and provides medical ben- efits and 401K options.

His wife has a good job as well, and they live on the combination of their two salaries. Paco is the breadwin- ner of the family, earning two-thirds of the total household income. Paco’s wife had a back injury which resulted in her having surgery. Now she lives with restrictions so her job work is limited and she requires frequent medical care.

If Paco is deported, his wife must decide whether to leave with him or stay in the U.S. without him. For Paco to make an equivalent income in Mexico, even after adjustments for cost of liv- ing, he would need a college degree.

If his wife moved with him to Mexico, she would not be able to get the same level of medical care, or enjoy the same quality of life as they have here. His wife’s entire family is here in the United States, so she would have no support structure if she moved to Mexico.

Because of the uncertainty sur- rounding continuation of the DACA program, Paco’s wife is experiencing high anxiety and depression. Once Catholic Charities of Idaho and Paco have submitted his paper- work for a provisional waiver, he will have to travel to Juarez, Mexico, for an interview. If he does not get the waiver, he must stay in Mexico at least 10 years before he can request permanent residency, and it may break up his marriage. If he is granted a waiver, he can legally return to the United States as a Legal Permanent Resident. Paco and his wife have children, but are afraid to do so now because of his pending legal status.

Economic hardship is not regarded as asylum be- cause they are of economic reasons, they are not fleeing persecution. Most undocumented Paco hopes that once he is a perma- nent resident he will be able to study mechanics, return to school and earn a degree. He dreams of buying a house by a river where he can fish and his wife and children can farm.

He would love to start his own business in a country he already con- siders to be home.

Why don't they get in line just like everybody else to become citizens? Under current laws, no “line” for lawful immi- gration to the United States actually exists for the majority of immigrants. Under the current legal framework, lawful immi- gration to the United States is restricted to only a few narrow categories of persons.

Most unauthorized immigrants residing here are ineligible to enter the country with a green card as a lawful permanent resident for the purpose of living and working in the country.

This is because most do not have the family rela- tionship required to qualify for any type of asylum. Economic hardship is not regarded as asylum be- cause they are of economic reasons, they are not fleeing persecution. Most undocumented

The full document can be found on www.usccb.org along with other immigration-related documents.

Why don't they come here legally? Why don't the

In thefractional debate surrounding both legal and illegal immigration to the United States, politicians, the public, and pundits take everyday cycle back to fundamental questions:

Why don't they come here legally?

Why don't they get in line just like everybody else to become citizens?