

FROM THE DESK OF DR. HANCE DILBECK

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February 5, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1139 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means
1129 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Johnson, Chairman Smith, and Ranking Member Neal:

On behalf of GuideStone Financial Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention, I am writing in support of the Clergy Act (H.R. 227), bipartisan legislation reintroduced by Congressmen Vince Fong and Mike Thompson on January 7, 2025, to provide a one-time opt-in opportunity into Social Security for members of the clergy who are currently exempted but desire inclusion.

GuideStone is a church benefits organization serving Southern Baptist churches and ministries along with other denominational churches and faith-aligned institutions. As a church benefits board, GuideStone offers retirement, investment, health, and insurance services for its members through a church plan. Social Security plays an important role in complementing the retirement benefits GuideStone provides to those who have devoted their lives to serving their communities. We are hopeful that the opt-in window created by the Clergy Act, will help clergy not currently covered by Social Security to move closer to a complete retirement package and enhanced financial security as they transition into the next chapter of their lives.

GuideStone respectfully requests Congress pass this important legislation, helping to improve the retirement security of numerous clergy, including some of our plan participants. We thank Congressmen Fong and Thompson for devoting their time and attention to this important issue. We urge the House Ways and Means Committee to favorably report this legislation and the House to advance the legislation on the floor as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Dr. D. Hance Dilbeck, Jr.
President, Chief Executive Officer