

To the Honorable the Senate and
House of Representatives of the
United States of America

The subscribers, your memorialists,
respectfully show:

That they are the President
and Secretary of the "Board of Delegates
of American Israelites", and that
they are duly empowered to submit to
your honorable body the facts herein set
forth, and to crave, at your hands, that
attention to the subject which its impor-
tance to American citizens professing the
Jewish religion, demands.

Your memorialists respectfully show:

That by the 9th section of the Act of
Congress, approved July 22, 1861, and the
7th section of the Act of Congress approved
August 3, 1861, it is provided that "the
Chaplain appointed by the vote of the field
officers and company commanders, must be a
regular ordained minister of some Christian
denomination," and that, as appears by the
following letter from the War Department,
to which your Memorialists beg leave to refer,
the said sections have been interpreted to
exclude from the Office of Chaplain in the
service of the United States "regular ordained
ministers" of the Jewish faith.

"War Department October 23, 1861

"Rev. A. Fischel, Rabbi, Jewish Synagogue,

" New York. —

" Sir, — Your communication of the 17th inst.
" has been received.

" In reply, you are respectfully informed
" that by the 9th section of the Act of Congress
" approved July 22. 1861, it is provided that
" the chaplains appointed by " the vote of
" the field officers and company commanders
" must be a regular ordained minister of
" some Christian denomination. A like
" provision, also is made in the 7th section
" of the Act of Congress, approved August 3.
" 1861. Were it not for the impediments thus
" directly created by the provisions of these
" two acts, the Department would have
" taken your application into its favorable
" consideration.

" I have the honor to be

" Very respectfully

" Simon Cameron

" Secretary of War "

① Your Memorialists respectfully submit
that the body of citizens of the United States
whom your memorialists represent, numbering
not less than two hundred thousand, are
unexcelled by any other class of citizens
in loyalty and devotion to the Union, that
thousands of them have volunteered into the
Army of the United States, and are, by the
provisions of the acts hereinbefore mentioned
excluded from the advantages of spiritual
aid and consolation provided by Congress
for their fellow Citizens professing Christianity.

