

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"

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
advice and consolation provided by Congress
for their fellow citizens professing Christianity.

That the said Acts are oppressive, inasmuch as they establish a prejudicial discrimination against a particular class of citizens, on account of their religious belief, and further —

That the said Acts, inasmuch as they establish a religious test as a qualification for an office under the United States are manifestly in contravention of Section 3, Article VI. of the Constitution and Article I. of Amendments thereto. —

Your Memorialists, therefore respectfully pray that your honorable body will take this, their memorial into favorable consideration, and that you will in your wisdom, cause the Acts of Congress approved July 22^d and August 3rd 1861, respectively to be formally amended, so that there shall be no discrimination as against professors of the Jewish faith, in the several laws affecting the appointment of Chaplains in the service of the United States. —

And your memorialists will ever pray &c.

New York Dec 5. 1861

Tibeth 2. 5622 -



Henry S. Hart
President)

Myer J. Isaacs,
Secretary.