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Representative Ethan Berkowitz  
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**HB 47 – Restorative Community Justice**

One of the most vital functions of our criminal justice system is apprehending first-time offenders and reforming them before they develop into career criminals. Restorative Community Justice represents a proven method that steers errant members of society into productive and law abiding lives. The guiding principles and values of Restorative Community Justice are as follows:

1. Crime is an offense against human relationships.
2. Victims and the community are central to justice processes.
3. The first priority of justice is to assist victims.
4. The second priority is to restore the community, to the degree possible.
5. The offender has personal responsibility to victims and to the community for crimes committed.
6. Stakeholders share responsibilities for restorative justice through partnerships for action.
7. The offender will develop improved competency and understanding as a result of the restorative justice experience.

House Bill 47 directs the Department of Corrections to study the principles of Restorative Community Justice and produce a plan for implementing these principles in Alaska.

I would appreciate your support of this legislation.