

Chris Collins bio -- February 2020

Chris became President of Friends in 2016. He leads the organization's efforts to engage U.S. decision makers on the lifesaving work of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the importance of expanding global investment to bring these epidemics to an end. In 2019 he played a central role in multi-stakeholder advocacy to achieve the first increase in U.S. support to the Global Fund in six years, the third largest increase in the history of U.S. support.

Previously, as Chief of the Community Mobilization Division at UNAIDS, Chris helped make the case for investment in civil society as an essential part of the AIDS response.

As Vice President and Director of Public Policy at amfAR, Chris defended global AIDS research and program funding and worked to advance domestic HIV policy and global key populations programming.

Chris authored the monograph that inspired the effort to create the first comprehensive US National HIV/AIDS Strategy, then coordinated the successful advocacy push to establish the Strategy. He helped develop and managed the International Treatment Preparedness Coalition (ITPC) Missing the Target series of reports on global HIV treatment scale up; and co-founded and served as Executive Director at AVAC, a globally recognized HIV research and prevention advocacy group.

As appropriations staff to Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) in the late 1990s, Chris designed the first legislation to provide incentives for development and delivery of vaccines against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria, a bill that helped advance the global dialogue on tackling major infectious diseases. He holds a master's degree in public policy from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.