## Informational Hearing Outlook for Health Care Reform February 25, 2009

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Claudia Chaufan received her medical degree at the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, where she practiced medicine (clinical diabetes) for close to ten years. In the United States, she earned a doctorate in sociology at the University of California in Santa Cruz. She is currently an assistant professor of sociology and health policy at the University of California in San Francisco (Institute for Health and Aging and Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences). Her main area of research is the type 2 diabetes epidemic. Dr. Chaufan is active in professional and community organizations advocating for a social health insurance system in the United States (single payer health care reform).

She has given presentations on diabetes and on comparative health policies, and written for the general public and for expert audiences, in the United States and abroad. She is the current vice-president of California Physicians Alliance, the California chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program.